

VACo Mourns the Passing of William M. McCarty, Sr.



He had a voice that could soothe you. And a handshake that could crush you. He had a devotion to his faith that could lift you. And a stature that could protect you.

William M. McCarty, Sr. will be remembered by VACo in a variety of ways because he was a man of many wonderful angles.

As Pastor McCarty of Healing Waters Worship Center – he served the Carrollton community in Isle of Wight County for more than 25 years. Some members of his congregation shared their thoughts on Pastor McCarty's Facebook page.

“(God) has truly called a good man home.”

“Pastor McCarty my heart is broken, you were on my father's death bed to provide comfort as he was crossing onto the other side, I thank you very much for that and I would hope that somebody would keep me company before I pass through to the other side just like you did for my father.”

“We will forever remember you marrying Joe and I and laughing as my dad tripped on my dress.”

“You were one of the kindest people I ever met. My family was so thankful to have you by our side when we lost dad.”

“There’s a little less light in the world without you in it.”

“Fly high. Your work down here is done.”

Here at VACo – we knew him best as Supervisor McCarty and VACo President-Elect McCarty representing Isle of Wight County with a passion and a fight.

Supervisor McCarty was recently elected to a third term, representing District 2. During his first two terms, among his many accomplishments, Supervisor McCarty fought to keep taxes low, helped reduce stormwater fees by 25 percent, increased funding for volunteer and rescue squads, added more than a dozen Sheriff’s deputies to the county, and provided pay raises for teachers and first responders. His top priority was ensuring that Isle of Wight County provide the best opportunities for the next generation to succeed. Supervisor McCarty loved serving his community.

As VACo President-Elect McCarty – he often gave the invocation before meals and was a well-respected voice in an organization filled with leaders. He spoke zealously about education funding, and rural and agricultural issues. VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch expressed how we all felt in an email to the Board of Directors.

“We will greatly miss William and the many contributions he made—not only to VACo, but to all Virginia counties and to the community he served so passionately. Please keep William’s family, friends, and colleagues in your thoughts during this difficult time.”

But perhaps the greatest way he gave back in his life was as Husband McCarty (to Amanda), Father McCarty (to William Jr. and Elizabeth), PAPPY McCarty, Son McCarty, and Brother McCarty. He spread much devotion throughout the Isle of Wight community. But it was easy to see that he had no greater love than the one for his family. His daughter Elizabeth expressed that mutual affection when she wished Father McCarty a Happy Birthday last October 11.

“I couldn’t let the day end without wishing this Diddy of mine a Happy Birthday. Thank you for all you do, all you are, and all the joy you bring. I love you so so much. ❤️”

Rest easy William M. McCarty, Sr. We will remember you and the many ways you gave of yourself to those who needed it.

“We have accomplished a lot over the last 8 years, but there is always more work to be done as we must ensure that all well done is preserved in any forward motion. There are moments when we do not always see eye-to-eye. Still, I will remain a visible and viable leader that this County can trust. My door is open, and I meet regularly with citizens, take numerous calls throughout the week, answer countless emails, and attend multiple meetings at the State, regional, and local levels representing our citizens. I value being an accessible representative and leader.”

- **William M. McCarty, Sr.**

Fairfax County Announces Passing of Former Mount Vernon District Supervisor and VACo President



It is with deep sadness that Fairfax County announces the passing of former Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland, who died peacefully on Sunday morning, January 19.

Hyland was a beloved community member who served for more than three decades as a dedicated advocate and visionary leader. He was well known for his puns, sharp legal mind and inquisitions from the dais, and for his pivotal role in saving Inova Mount Vernon Hospital among many accomplishments. As a leader who truly listened, he inspired countless individuals through his unwavering commitment to public service. Supervisor Hyland was VACo President in 2002.

A Community Celebration of Life will be held Friday, March 28, at 10:30 am at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, with a reception to follow.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay reflected on Hyland's passing, stating, "Gerry Hyland was a tireless advocate, a compassionate leader and a dear friend to many. His vision and dedication to our community have left an enduring legacy that will continue to benefit Fairfax County for generations to come."

[More on Next Page](#)

McKay emphasized Hyland's dedication to his constituents, noting his service with countless regional, statewide and national organizations. He was particularly passionate about providing services to the county's most vulnerable residents, revitalizing the Richmond Highway Corridor and preserving the many historical properties within his district.

From 1988 to 2015, Hyland championed numerous initiatives that left a lasting impact on the county and its residents. He was instrumental in the closure of the county's I-95 landfill, ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for future generations. His efforts to keep Inova Mount Vernon Hospital open preserved critical health care services for the community. Additionally, he played a key role in transforming Lorton into the vibrant and thriving area it is today.

During his tenure, Hyland also served terms as chairman of the Virginia Railway Express and president of the Virginia Association of Counties. He was a board member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and the Inova Health Care Services Board. He also served as chairman of the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission and was a retired colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

In recognition of his remarkable contributions, the South County Center was renamed the Gerry W. Hyland Government Center in 2019, a testament to his enduring legacy.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck, who succeeded Hyland, called him a community pillar and a true patriot as well as a friend and mentor. "He was committed to doing things right for the right reasons and challenged us all to be our best selves," Storck said.

To celebrate his life and legacy, the community is invited to honor Hyland at the 38th Annual Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting on Feb. 8, an event he founded and cherished.

As a master of puns, Hyland left a lasting impression with his humor. At his final Board of Supervisors meeting, he shared one last pun that perfectly encapsulated his wit: "There once was a supervisor who told ten puns to his colleagues to get them to laugh, but no pun in ten did."

Fairfax County extends its deepest condolences to the Hyland family and all who were touched by his leadership, generosity and friendship.



Visit Pulaski County and the Pulaski County Historic Courthouse

Location: 52 West Main Street / Washington Avenue

Built: 1895 – 1896

Style: Richardsonian Romanesque

Architect: W Chamberlin & Company of Knoxville, Tennessee

Contractor: Miller & Warden of Pulaski

PHOTO CREDIT:
[Michael Pulice/2010](#)

Description: The building faces south and is a two story stone structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Pulaski,. The building is constructed of Peak Creek Sandstone and limestone. The south front has a large arched stone entrance on the first story. This entrance was constructed to serve as the entrance to the Pulaski County exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition in 1907. There is a triple pane window on the second story. On either side of the arch, rise stone pillars which extend above the roof line. The corners of the building have square stone towers with steep roofs. The second story has narrow arched windows. On the center of the roof is a high white cupola with clock and white colored dome at the top. The clock and the belfry were added in 1911. In the interior, there is a curved staircase. The former courtroom was located on the second story. After the fire in 1989, the interior was rebuilt in 1991 to 1992. The architect was Thomas A Douthat Jr. and the contractor was Avis Construction Company of Roanoke. On the north side is the modern courthouse constructed in 1957-1958.

SOURCE: [American Courthouses](#)

VACo 2025 REGIONAL MEETINGS



IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL
MEETINGS SCHEDULE TO BE
RELEASED SOON!



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Douglas R. Amos
Director of Business Development
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ALERT



NQTL Regulations and Compliance for Group Health Plans

Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) regulatory requirements are among the most complex and technical of all regulatory mandates applicable to group health plans. The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) prohibits imposing barriers on mental health or substance use disorder (MH/SUD) benefits that do not apply to medical and surgical (M/S) benefits. Employers and plan sponsors must ensure compliance with MHPAEA, including maintaining a Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitation (NQTL) Comparative Analysis to demonstrate adherence.

As group health plan fiduciaries, employers and plan sponsors must be prepared to respond to participant and regulator requests for a copy of an up-to-date Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitation (NQTL) Comparative Analysis demonstrating that their Plans are compliant with the MHPAEA.

Key Developments

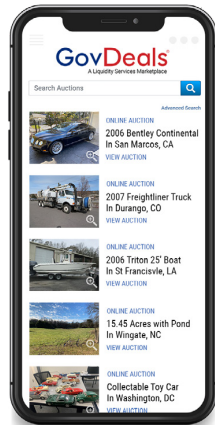
- **Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (CAA 2021):** Requires plans to analyze and document NQTL compliance and respond to regulator requests.
- **CAA 2023:** Extended NQTL compliance requirements to **self-funded non-Federal governmental plans**.
- **September 2024 Final Regulations:** Introduced stricter documentation standards, effective January 1, 2025.

Enforcement Priorities

Recent regulations aim to enhance access to MH/SUD benefits by focusing on:

1. Network adequacy, including provider reimbursement rates and monitoring standards.
2. Medical management techniques like prior authorization requirements.
3. Eliminating exclusions of critical MH/SUD treatments.

Plans must also ensure compliance across other NQTLs, including prescription drug designs, network tiers, out-of-network rate determination, and geographic or provider restrictions.



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Powhatan County Hires Fire & Rescue Chief

Powhatan County is proud to announce the hire of David “DJ” C. Johnston as the new Fire & Rescue Chief, effective January 17, 2025. This appointment follows a thorough and competitive selection process, underscoring the County’s dedication to outstanding public safety services and excellence in emergency response.

Chief Johnston succeeds retiring Fire & Rescue Chief Phil Warner, whose years of dedicated service have left an enduring legacy in Powhatan County. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to Interim Chief Taylor Goodman for his exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment during the transition. Deputy Chief Goodman’s contributions have been instrumental in setting the standards of service the County is known for.

Chief Johnston brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role. He joins Powhatan County after an impressive 17-year tenure with Hanover County Fire-EMS, where he served in various capacities, including most recently as Deputy Chief. In this role, he oversaw operations, capital projects, budget, training, and logistics.

In addition to his extensive professional experience, Chief Johnston holds a master’s degree in public administration from Liberty University. His dedication to excellence has been recognized with numerous awards and leadership roles, including the Chief’s Choice Award and Career Officer of the Year with Hanover Fire-EMS, as well as serving as President of the Forest View Volunteer Rescue Squad.

As Fire & Rescue Chief, Chief Johnston will lead Powhatan County’s emergency services, which include fire, rescue and emergency management, building on our strong foundation to further enhance public safety, emergency response, and community engagement.

County Administrator Bret Schardein stated “Volunteerism is the foundation of emergency services in Powhatan County. We were impressed with DJ’s dedication and focus on volunteers, as he will lead our hybrid system that includes both volunteer and career staff to serve our citizens and business communities. I want to thank Deputy Chief Taylor Goodman for his service, not just for stepping up during the transition, but for his contributions over the years that are in no small part why we enjoy such an excellent emergency services team today.”

Chief Johnston stated, “I am excited to work alongside the men and women of Powhatan Fire and Rescue and ensuring that our team is prepared and ready to serve the community.”

Powhatan County looks forward to welcoming Chief Johnston and supporting him in his mission to serve and protect our residents.



Virginia Business Recognizes Prince Edward County as a 2025 Best Places to Work in Virginia

Virginia Business has named Prince Edward County as one of the **2025 Best Places to Work** in Virginia. The County was in the medium-sized employer category with between 100-249 employees. These awards are held in partnership with Best Companies Group.

Best Places to Work in Virginia identifies, recognizes and honors the best places of employment in Virginia in three categories: small employer (15-99 employees), medium employer (100-249) and large employer (250 or more). To be considered, companies must be a publicly or privately held business; be a for-profit or not-for-profit business or government entity; have a facility in the state of Virginia; have at least 15 full- or part-time employees working in Virginia; and be in business a minimum of one year. Best Companies Group managed the overall registration and survey process and also analyzed the data and used their expertise to determine the final rankings.



There were two parts used to determine the rankings. The first consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, practices and demographics, worth approximately 25% of the total evaluation. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience, which consisted of 75% of the total. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final ranking.

"I am incredibly proud that Prince Edward County has been named one of the *Best Places to Work in Virginia*, and we are especially honored to be the only local government recognized on this prestigious list," said Douglas P. Stanley, County Administrator. "This achievement is a direct reflection of the dedication, hard work, and passion of our employees, who consistently go above and beyond to serve our community with excellence."

"The *2025 Best Places to Work in Virginia* know what it takes to create a workplace that results in teamwork and excellence. They put their employees' welfare first, creating a positive environment for all," said Richard Foster, associate publisher of Virginia Business. "We at Virginia Business are pleased to join with Best Companies Group in recognizing these outstanding organizations."

"The Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors believes that creating a positive and supportive work environment is key to attracting and retaining the talented individuals who make our county thrive. Our sincere thanks to Virginia Business for this recognition, which is a testament to each and every team member who contributes to the success of our county," Stanley said. "Together, we will continue working to make our county an even better place to live, work, and grow."

Best Places to Work in Virginia winners will be recognized March 31, 2025 at a celebration at the Hilton Short Pump in Richmond. A complete listing of winners is attached and final rankings will be announced at the March 31st awards ceremony. Winners will also be profiled in the April 2025 issue of Virginia Business.

For a listing of sponsors and more information about the event, visit www.virginiabusiness.com/event/best-places-to-work-for-in-virginia.

Taylor Harvie's Service Celebrated at Retirement Gathering



On Wednesday, December 18, current and retired Administrators from Southside gathered to celebrate the career of longtime Amelia County Administrator Taylor Harvie. Mr. Harvie served as Amelia County Administrator from February 1, 2012 until his retirement on August 2, 2024. He also served as a member of the Amelia County Board of Supervisors from 1992 to 2006 and later as a member of the Electoral Board. Ten current or former administrators representing Buckingham, Cumberland, Charlotte, Nottoway, Lunenburg, Richmond, and Prince Edward County with a combined 150+ years of local government administration experience, as well as, CRC Executive Director Christin Jackson, Shawn Rozier from Steps, and VAcorp representatives attended Charley's Waterfront Café in Farmville to celebrate Mr. Harvie's 30+ years of service to Amelia County. His peers presented him a rocking chair engraved with the Amelia County seal, his name, and years of service.



Group Photo

Front Row – Taylor Harvie (Retired Amelia County Administrator)

Second Row (L-R) – Shawn Rozier (VP of Housing STEPS), Christin Jackson (Executive Director CRC), Becky Carter (Retired Buckingham Administrator), Susie Hampton (Retired Prince Edward County Administrator), Tracy Gee (Lunenburg County Administrator)

Third Row (L-R) – Karl Carter (Buckingham County Administrator), Wade Bartlett (Retired Prince Edward County Administrator), Ronnie Roark (Retired Nottoway County Administrator), Doug Stanley (Prince Edward County Administrator), Derek Stamey (Cumberland County Administrator), Dan Witt (Charlotte County Administrator), Morgan Quicke (former Richmond County Administrator and VAcorp VP), Stephanie Heintzleman (former Charlotte Assistant County Administrator and VAcorp VP)

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

Virginia Association of Counties • 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA 23219
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ACTION ITEM: Oppose Bills Mandating Collective Bargaining and Other Employment Terms for Transportation Services

[SB 919 \(Salim\)](#) / [HB 2619 \(Helmer\)](#) have passed their respective committees and could be heard this week. Both bills are unfunded mandates that infringe on local authority.

ACTION REQUIRED – Contact the [Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee](#) and the [House Labor and Commerce Committee](#) to oppose.

The bills would require the governing body of any county that contracts with a private company to provide transportation services, for the contract to include provisions requiring any employee of the private company be given compensation and benefits that are at a minimum equivalent to the compensation and benefits provided to a public employee.

Furthermore, the bill states that if a county has adopted an ordinance or resolution authorizing collective bargaining by employees of such county, in contracting with a private company for transportation services, the county would require such company to enter and adhere to a collective bargaining agreement.

KEY POINTS

- The bills would mandate collective bargaining within select counties, interfere with the ability for a county to make employment and services delivery decisions, and may have costly unintended consequences.
- The bills include language that could be potentially harmful to counties such as how “transportation services” are constituted. Generally, this means those who operate transit systems but could very likely include mechanics of such systems.

SB 919 reported from the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee and was re-referred to the [Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee](#).

HB 2619 reported from the House Labor and Commerce Subcommittee #2 by a vote of 6-3 and will be heard in the [House Labor and Commerce Committee](#) on January 28.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Capitol Contact

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Contact Your Legislators – Oppose Speed Camera Bills that Preempt Local Authority

There are two problematic transportation bills advancing through the General Assembly – both would preempt local authority in the application of speed cameras and divert funding from localities to the state.

ACTION REQUIRED – Please contact your legislators today to oppose SB 1209 and HB 2041.

[SB 1209 \(Obenshain\)](#), as substituted, states that all civil penalties collected for the purposes of recording vehicle speed violations shall be paid to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to be used for the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP). What this means, in practice, is that for counties who choose to administer a photo speed enforcement program, all funds generated will then be sent to the state.

SB 1209 passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee and was re-referred on a vote of 13-0-1 to the Senate Courts of Justice Committee.

[HB 2041 \(Seibold\)](#) would require civil penalties collected from photo speed cameras, a mandate that preempts local authority, to be used solely for the operating costs of such speed safety cameras, and that any excess fund collected are to be annually deposited in the VHSIP.

HB 2041 reported out of subcommittee by a vote of 5-3 and will be heard by the House Transportation Committee on January 28.

KEY POINTS

- SB 1209 and HB 2041 preempt local authority in the application of speed camera enforcement.
- Keeping these funds at the local level empowers communities to invest in critical programs and infrastructure improvements that directly address their unique needs and priorities.
- VACo urges lawmakers to prioritize local control and flexibility to ensure that resources remain where they are needed most—within our communities.

KEY CONTACTS

[SENATE OF VIRGINIA](#) | [HOUSE OF DELEGATES](#)

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Capitol Contact

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JANUARY 2025

- January 24, 2025: **Capitol Contact ALERT!** [Contact Your Legislators to Oppose Speed Camera Bills that Preempt Local Authority](#)
- January 23, 2025: [County Government Day Capitol Contact](#)
- January 21, 2025: [VACo Supports School Construction Financing Bill](#)
- January 16, 2025: [VACo Opposes Bills Mandating Collective Bargaining and Other Employment Terms for Transportation Services](#)
- January 14, 2025: [VACo Advocates for Removal of K-12 Support Cap](#)
- January 9, 2025: [General Assembly Convenes, Adopts Schedule for 2025 General Assembly Session](#)

[Look for Capitol Contact on Tuesdays and Thursdays](#) during 2025 General Assembly Session



Chairpersons' Institute Provides County Leaders with Peer-to-Peer Education

Virginia County Chairs recently attended the VACo Chairpersons' Institute designed to focus on the duties and skills needed to be effective Board leaders.

The education was varied and a range of subjects were covered.

- Relationship Building
- Managing Meetings/Parliamentary Procedure
- Conflict Resolution and Decision Making
- Legislative Issues
- Messaging and Media Relations
- Leadership
- Role of the Chair
- Your Role in Advocacy and VACo

Thank you to the speakers and attendees that made the event successful.

County Government Day Brings Leaders Together in Advocacy



PICTURED: VACo President and James City County Supervisor **Ruth Larson** and VAPDC First Vice President and Lunenburg County Supervisor **Mike Hankins**.

More than 200 county elected officials and staff from all over the Commonwealth convened in Richmond on January 23 to advocate on behalf of their communities.

With VACo President Ruth Larson presiding - attendees received a welcome from City of Richmond Mayor Dr. Danny Avula; a session on protecting local authority with Loudoun County Vice Chair Mike Turner and VACo's Joe Lerch; budget analysis from VACo Economist Jim Regimbal; and a panel on education funding with Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay, Roanoke County Vice Chair Martha Hooker, and VACo Jeremy Bennett. The VACo legislative team then provided details on important bills and pressing issues. In the afternoon, county leaders journeyed to the Capitol and met with their Delegates and Senators.

VACo President Larson urged those in attendance to make their presence known by sharing local government policy priorities with state legislators. Check out the [Legislative Day Bulletin](#).


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	Class 1: Fundamentals of EM	Class 2: Navigating Disasters	Class 3: Recovery & Resiliency
Chesapeake	Feb. 26	March 12	March 28
Richmond / VCU	March 12	March 28	April 9
Alexandria / Fairfax	Jan. 30	Feb. 7	Feb. 21
Staunton	Feb. 4	Feb. 21	Feb. 28
Roanoke	Feb. 12	March 14	March 21

All classes are taught by full time faculty in the Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness program at the Wilder School of Virginia Commonwealth University. Classes are FREE, pre-registration required.

Learn more and register at

<https://cpp.wilder.vcu.edu/our-work-in-action-posts/disaster-preparedness-training.html>

VDEM Announces Pre-Application Deadline for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program following Hurricane Helene (FEMA-DR-VA-4831)

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) is encouraging eligible applicants to submit pre-applications for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding following recovery efforts for Hurricane Helene (FEMA-DR-VA-4831). This is a statewide opportunity; however, priority will be given to **declared localities** following the impacts of Hurricane Helene.

PRE-APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TO VDEM BY March 30, 2025.

HMGP Overview

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#) provides funding for eligible applicants following a presidential major disaster declaration. The purpose of this program is to rebuild from disasters in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future disaster losses in communities. Example of project types can include, but not limited to:

- Property Acquisition and Demolition
- Mitigation Reconstruction
- Infrastructure Protection
- Developing or Updating Mitigation Plans
- Drainage Improvement and Flood Control Projects

Who Can Apply?

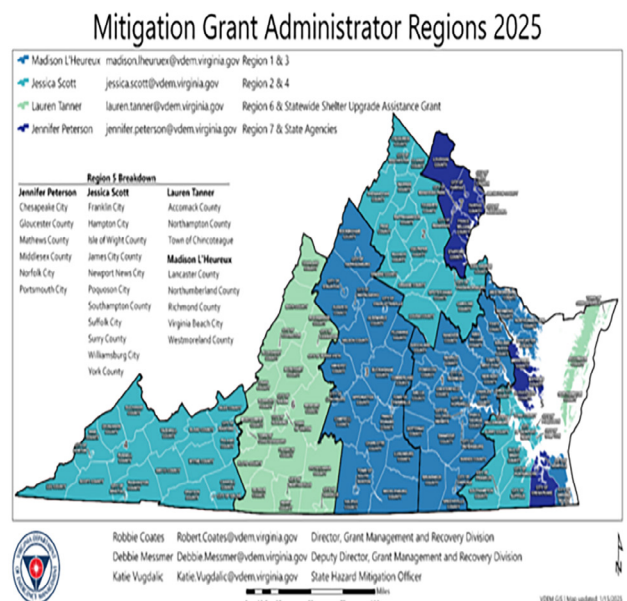
- Local governments (which includes cities, counties, towns, special government districts), state agencies, certain non-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribal governments.

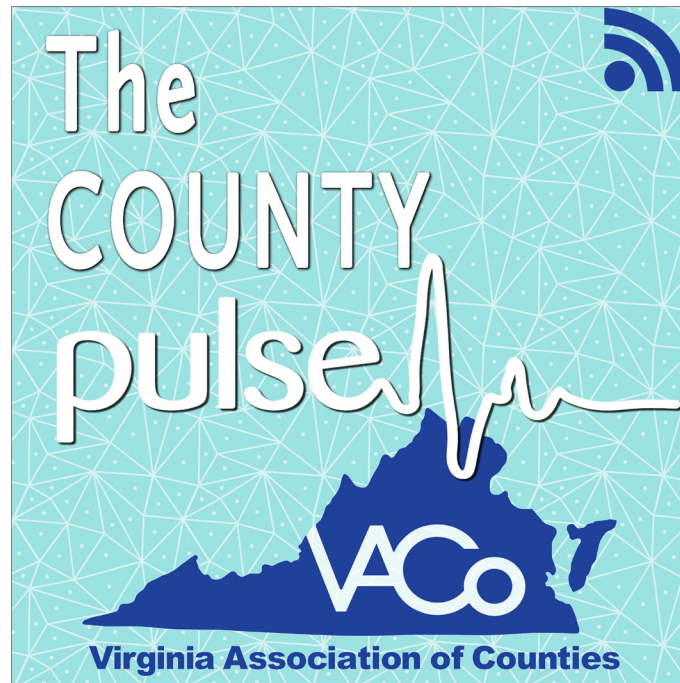
Applicants must have a FEMA-approved local or tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) at the time of grant fund obligation in accordance with [Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201](#).

Pre-Application Submission

The pre-application is the first step in applying and is a simple form that lets us know your intent to apply, the type of the project and an estimated budget. It allows VDEM to do initial eligibility screening, and to provide technical assistance. A pre-application is not a formal application for funding, which will be required by the application due date, which will likely be in August 2025. Pre-applications must be submitted through the [VDEM EM Grants](#) portal. If you do not have a VDEM EM Grants account, please register for an account [here](#) and indicate the reason as HMGP application, and the program category as Hazard Mitigation Assistance. VDEM staff will review and approve your account request, at which point you can begin the pre-application process.

For more information on the application process and eligibility criteria, contact your locality's VDEM regional hazard mitigation grant administrator as indicated in the map to the right:





Season 4

Energy Landscape of Virginia Series with Joe Lerch

Energy Landscape of Virginia Episode 7 | "Data Centers in Virginia" JLARC Report – Interview with Mark Gribbin



[Listen to the Podcast.](#)

"Data Centers in Virginia" JLARC Report – Interview with Mark Gribbin.

In this episode we sit down with Mark Gribbin, Chief Legislative Analyst with the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC). He is the project leader for JLARC's "Data Centers in Virginia" report, which was released December 9th. We go over a summary of the report's findings regarding the economic benefits to Virginia, as well as what challenges lay ahead in regard to meeting the escalating energy demand from the continued growth of the industry. We also discuss the report's legislative recommendations and policy options, some of which include expressly authorizing local governments to address issues related to water usage and noise.

RESOURCES

- [JLARC "Data Centers in Virginia" Report](#)
- [Electric Utilities and Data Center Load Growth – Case Summary for SCC PUR-2024-00144](#)

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

The cashVest Effect Will Lead to More Revenue in 2025

By William Cherry | Director of Public Partnerships at three+one®

Some budget officers and public finance officials may be feeling resigned to the idea that their municipality will have to make do with lower interest earnings in 2025 because of the recent rate cuts enacted by the Federal Reserve. In general, it's true that lower interest rates directly correlate to reduced earnings revenues for public entities. BUT...that doesn't necessarily have to be the case!

What has become known by public finance officials all over the country as "the cashVest effect" can actually result in an increase in interest earnings despite the impact of Fed cuts and lower market-interest rates. How is this possible? Can less really mean more?



The answer is a resounding YES. It's based upon the fact that municipalities and public entities that use cashVest to help them monitor and effectively manage their liquidity generally see an increase of anywhere from 1.5% to as much as 3.5% on the rates they earn on their cash.

That means that as a direct result of "the cashVest effect," a medium-sized county government with an average of \$100 million on deposit could generate an additional \$1,500,000 to as much as \$3,500,000 in earnings revenues over and above what their earnings would be without the benefit of cashVest.

That's because cashVest helps finance officials put more money to work earning interest instead of having cash sitting idly by in low or no-interest accounts. cashVest also identifies the highest and best interest rates being offered by local and regional banks. Public entities can often generate sharply higher interest earnings without switching banks or moving money. We also accurately measure future liquidity levels and project future cash-flow needs, which allows CFOs to confidently invest in fixed income for longer terms thus locking in higher rates. Put all those tools together and you can see how the "cashVest effect" can save you time and add 1.5% to 3.5% to your entity's earnings.

Please send me an email or give me a call and I'll be glad to share my thoughts on how much the cashVest effect could benefit your particular public entity. These days, public officials are all being asked to do more with less. With cashVest less can actually become more!

Prior to joining three+one®, the author served for 24 years as a County Treasurer and CFO. During his career he was responsible for managing and investing hundreds of millions of dollars of public funds. Bill's experience also includes serving as a county budget officer and disaster recovery financial coordinator. He can be reached in person by phone at 585-484-0311, ext. 709 or by email at wec@threeplusone.us



The VA250 Mobile Museum: A Classroom on Wheels

Get ready to bring Virginia's history to life! The VA250 Mobile Museum Experience, a hands-on, interactive, and immersive museum on wheels, is coming early 2025. This unique experience will transport students back in time, exploring key stories from every region of the state.

Perfect for:

- **Schools:** Enhance your curriculum with a memorable field trip.
- **Community organizations:** Host a unique event for all ages.
- **Local festivals:** Attract visitors with a fascinating historical exhibit.

Book the museum for your school or community event today! Visit [the VA250 website](#) for more information and to schedule a visit.



Get your VA250 license plates - now available

Are you ready to show your pride in America's 250th anniversary? The VA250 commemorative license plate is now available for purchase! As a symbol of our nation's rich history and bright future, this limited-edition license plate offers a unique opportunity to drive with a piece of history.

By purchasing a VA250 license plate, you're not only adding a stylish touch to your vehicle, but you're also supporting a worthy cause. A portion of the proceeds from each plate sold will be donated directly to VA250, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating educational programs, events, and exhibits to commemorate America's 250th anniversary.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to own a piece of history and support a great cause. [Visit the Virginia DMV website](#) to purchase your VA250 license plate today.

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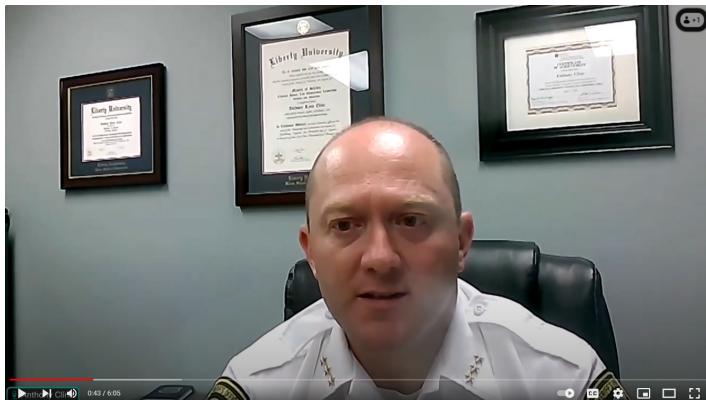
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Thank you Wythe County Chief Deputy [Anthony Cline](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!



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.



Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing is a great tool to make your locality's and school division's budget go further!

Contact us for details.

VML/VACo Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing offers:

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- Lease terms up to the expected life of the equipment.
- Streamlined process – we handle the details for you.

Budget less in the current year by spreading payments out over the useful life of the equipment – perfect for school buses, fire engines, and police cars.

CONTACT US TODAY

Questions?

Contact Steve Mulroy

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Berkley Group is the go-to consultant for local governments and other public agencies. 100% of our services are dedicated to serving public agencies. We understand local government because we have worked in local government and continue to serve them proudly.

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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 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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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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[SAME DAY ACCESS CLINICIAN PART-TIME](#) | Hanover County | Posted January 24

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Prince George County | Posted
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George County | Posted December 30

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



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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.



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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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County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

