



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Preserve critical funding streams for public education, public safety, human services, transportation and other core services:

- Fully fund K-12 education, including the Standards of Quality and the Cost of Competing factor.
- Ensure dedicated transportation funding that is stable and predictable for both capital projects and transit operations. This includes a replacement for the Capital Project Revenue (CPR) bonds for statewide transit, the match for federal funding, and regional funding that needs to be restored.
- Re-examine assumptions that led to reduced funds for Community Services Boards in FY 19 & 20. If reimbursements for new Medicaid enrollments do not equal the reductions, restore the difference in current and future funding.

Reconcile Federal Tax Changes and Court Decisions:

- Adopt statutory changes that will enable Virginia to collect sales and use taxes from internet sales including the ability to collect local option sales taxes from remote sellers. Follow the current state formula that dedicates funds for transportation.
- Ensure extra revenue coming to Virginia from the Federal Tax Cut and Jobs Act is used to meet state and local priorities.



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POLICY STATEMENTS UPDATED FOR 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

A. Finance

1. Local Taxing Authority: Preserve all current local taxing authority, including business license, and machinery and tools tax administration, real estate and rate making authority. Any modifications to local taxing authority must include an alternative revenue authority with reliable, sustainable revenue sources.
2. Equal Taxing Authority: Grant counties the same taxing authority as cities to provide a level playing field among localities.
3. On-Line Travel Companies/Modifying State Sales and Local Transient Occupancy Taxes: Ensure localities and the state can collect all state sales and local Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) levies associated with on-line travel sales by on-line travel companies (OTCs).
4. Communications Sales and Use Tax: Reset the rate to the same level as the state sales tax and broaden coverage to include services that have become available since the original law was adopted. Oppose transfers of these revenues to the state general fund for purposes other than those stipulated in the Code of Virginia.

B. Transportation

1. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA): Maintain sufficient, sustainable and dedicated funding sources for WMATA's long-term needs, ensure the state meets its funding commitment to WMATA's capital program, and ensure that year-over-year growth in state WMATA capital and operating assistance allocations tracks WMATA's needs, and are within the allowable growth dictated by the General Assembly. Work with the state to ensure that localities and WMATA are not penalized for increasing transit service.
2. Revenue Sharing: Support the Virginia Department of Transportation's Revenue Sharing program at the rate of \$150 million on an annual basis. This

popular matching fund has enabled Arlington and many other localities to fund transportation projects that otherwise would not have been constructed.

3. Drivers Licenses for Non-Citizens: Support legislation that authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles to develop and issue permits and licenses for the sole purpose of operating a motor vehicle, to individuals who cannot provide proof of authorized presence in the United States, but otherwise meet DMV's qualifications.
4. Renaming Jefferson Davis Highway: Explore avenues to allow Arlington County to rename the section of Jefferson Davis Highway that runs through the county with the same name adopted by an adjacent jurisdiction.

C. Education

1. Support Personnel: Eliminate the artificial funding cap placed on support positions, and restore the inflation factor for non-personal support costs.
2. At-Risk Add-on: Support an at-risk add-on that would provide additional funding based on the number of students who meet that criteria.
3. Youth Mental Health: Increase the number of school-based mental health professionals.

D. General Government

1. Short-term Rental Properties (aka On-line Short-term lodging): Preserve local authority to regulate short-term rentals, audit tax collections and enforce zoning laws.
2. Unfunded Mandates: Oppose any mandates that are not fully funded, including additional administrative burdens on local governments.
3. Nonpartisan Redistricting: Depoliticize the drawing of congressional and state legislative district boundaries by supporting an approach that advocates for fairness, transparency and accountability, keeps the residents' interests in mind, and encourages healthy debate and participation by the public in the process.

E. Land Use and Housing

1. Land Use Policies: Support the authority of local governments to plan, zone, and enforce land use regulations, without restricting local zoning authority or the zoning process.

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-Arlington County Vision Statement

2. **Housing Trust Fund:** Increase budget for Housing Trust Fund by at least \$20 million, and support a permanent source of funding.

F. Civil Rights Initiatives

1. **Education:** Ensure all high school graduates, including undocumented students who meet residency and other reasonable requirements, have access to Virginia colleges and technical schools at in-state tuition rates.
2. **Equal Rights Amendment:** Adopt a resolution ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution that was proposed by Congress in 1972. Current laws protecting equality of rights on account of sex are subject to legislative repeal or judicial revocation. Without a constitutional amendment, protections of equal rights remain vulnerable
3. **Immigration:** Oppose any state mandate to localities requiring local law enforcement officers to evaluate the immigration status of individuals encountered during lawful stops or other routine police activities.
4. **Voting Access:** Expand voting access by enhancing accessibility for people who may need assistance with registering and/or casting a ballot. Enact no-excuse absentee voting.
5. **Human Trafficking:** Support measures to combat human trafficking, including enhanced training of law enforcement personnel.

G. Public Safety/Emergencies

1. **License Plate Readers:** Support the policy, developed by the Northern Virginia Chiefs of Police, to retain data from public safety License Plate Readers in order to assist with criminal investigations, Amber alerts, wanted violent felons, stolen vehicles and terrorist watch lists.
2. **Jail Diversion Efforts:** Support jail diversion efforts for mental health and substance-abusing individuals who become involved with the criminal justice system.
3. **Next Generation 911:** Support the statewide transition to Next Generation 911 using state funds that will be dedicated to the 911 Services Board; this should not be an unfunded mandate for which localities become accountable.

H. Energy and the Environment

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1. Permanent Power Purchase Agreements: Replace current pilot program for third-party renewable energy power purchase agreements with a permanent provision that allows PPAs to all customer classes without limits on system size or program capacity.
2. Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard: Enact a mandatory renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to provide a market incentive for renewable power in Virginia to keep Virginia competitive with neighboring states.
3. Net Metering: Prevent any additional hindrance to existing net metering laws; remove the 1 percent cap on the total amount of solar that can be net-metered in a utility service territory; allow governmental net metering such that excess renewable energy generation at one town, city, or county site can be credited to another governmental account at retail value, including non-contiguous sites.
4. Community Solar: Allow ratepayer subscriptions (e.g. “community solar”) for electricity from solar-produced power for all rate payers, including community net metering. Any legislation permitting community solar subscriptions should not foreclose other Power Purchase Agreement options. Community solar must not be limited to utility-sponsored programs.
5. Energy Efficiency and Recurrent Flooding: Support forthcoming Department of Environmental Quality rule to regulate CO2 emissions from the electric power sector in Virginia through a market-based emission mechanism, such as participation in the existing Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Support use of proceeds from the market for carbon reduction to (1) incentivize greater energy efficiency and renewable energy investments, and (2) address public health, integrity of property, and economic and infrastructure resilience amid climate change.
6. Study opportunity for a Green Bank initiative in Virginia: Direct the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME) to study the feasibility, costs, and benefits of establishing a “Green Bank” of public and private funds to serve as a catalyst for innovation and implementation of advanced energy efficiency practices, renewable energy deployment, and other environmental programming throughout the Commonwealth.
7. Preserving Trees: Support legislation to provide greater incentives for tree canopy preservation in the context of compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and related environmental laws.

8. Recycling: Encourage adoption of local option authority to develop incentives or regulations to decrease or otherwise regulate the distribution, sale or offer of disposable plastic bags.

I. Human Services

1. Same Day Access for Mental Health Services: Fully fund the implementation of Same Day Access – the first of 10 steps in STEP-VA - which is now mandated for all Community Services Boards in the Commonwealth by the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services.
2. Psychiatric Beds: Due to a critical shortage of local beds and challenges relating to accessing out-of-region beds, promulgate rules to increase the number of psychiatric beds in Northern Virginia, and the rest of the state, either by approving additional beds, or redesignating existing hospital beds as mental health beds.
3. Generators for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities: Require that assisted living facilities have and maintain onsite generators for use during a power outage.
4. Long-Term Care Workforce: Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to provide sick days, a living wage, and on-going training to long-term care workers which in turn will provide a better quality of life for Virginia's older adults and people with disabilities.
5. Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program: Increase funding to meet the state and national standard of one full time Ombudsman for every 2,000 nursing home and assisted living beds.
6. Child Care Center Quality: Work with the appropriate state agencies to improve the quality of both child care centers and home-based day care centers by increasing technical assistance & trainings related to health and safety, including emergency preparation and English as a Second Language classes (important for safety).
7. Women's Health Care and Services: Support unrestricted access to the full range of reproductive health services.