



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

2020 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.
- Restore transportation revenues to NVTA that were diverted to fund WMATA's capital funding gap for state of good repair and critical capital needs. Restore all regional and local funding that was diverted in 2018.
- Fully fund local costs associated with Medicaid expansion, including the cost of local eligibility workers and case managers; restore General Fund reductions to Community Services Boards in FY 2020 and subsequent years as savings anticipated by billing for newly-eligible Medicaid clients have not materialized.
- Support significant increase to, and sustainable source of funding for, the Housing Trust Fund. Specifically support \$100 million for FY 2020 - 2022 as recommended by the General Assembly legislative leaders on housing.



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

POLICY STATEMENTS UPDATED FOR 2020 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. 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.
4. Transient Occupancy Tax Dedicated to Travel and Tourism Promotion: Request that the General Assembly renew, without a sunset, the .25% transient occupancy tax on hotel rooms that funds travel and tourism promotion in Arlington.

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. Peer-to-Peer Rental Car Companies: Ensure that any legislation retains the current motor vehicle daily rental tax amount to provide proper payments to

localities, and transportation entities including the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for capital expenses.

4. Long Bridge Project: Secure state funding to support the expansion of passenger rail across the Long Bridge for more efficient Virginia Railway Express service, and the improvement of all Amtrak and commuter rail from Washington, DC to the south.
5. 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.

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. Unfunded Mandates: Oppose any mandates that are not fully funded, including additional administrative burdens on local governments.
2. 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.
3. Minimum Wage: Support an increase to the state minimum wage.

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.

2. Legal Assistance Information to Accompany Eviction Notifications: Require eviction notices (five days' notice for payment issues and 21/30 notices terminating rental agreement in 30 days if the issue is not remedied in 21 days) to include contact information for legal assistance helplines and organizations.
3. Housing Choice Vouchers: Provide income tax credit for landlords in certain Arlington census tracts who participate in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

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. Expand 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. Gun Safety Measures:
 - i. Enact Red Flag, or Extreme Risk Protection Order Laws, creating a legal process for the temporary removal of firearms from individuals deemed to pose an imminent risk of violence to themselves or others
 - ii. Adopt universal background checks for all gun buyers
 - iii. Reinstate one-gun a month law – limiting handgun purchases to one gun a month
 - iv. Ban sales of bump stocks, assault weapons, and armor piercing ammunition

- v. Permit local governments to prohibit the possession of firearms on property owned or leased by the locality
2. Jail Per Diems: Increase per diem funding to a level that recognizes the costs of housing inmates in local jails.
3. Jail Diversion Efforts: Support jail diversion efforts for mental health and substance-abusing individuals who become involved with the criminal justice system.
4. 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

Energy

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 hindrances 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.
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 Resource Standard: Enact a mandatory Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) that requires utilities in Virginia to meet annual, long-term targets for reducing energy use through end-use efficiency. An EERS adds a performance-based target to utility spending on efficiency programs.

Environment

6. Climate Response and Resiliency: Support Department of Environmental Quality rule to suppress or mitigate 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) allocate up to twenty (20%) percent of the gross proceeds from such program to fund climate-response, mitigation and adaptation and/or infrastructure projects that reduce emissions and increase climate resilience.
7. Establish Virginia Bank for Energy and Resilience: Direct the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) to create an “Energy and Resiliency Bank” using public and private funds to serve as a catalyst for innovation and implementation of advanced energy efficiency practices, renewable energy deployment, increased resiliency, and other environmental programming throughout the Commonwealth.
8. Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF): Increase funding for SLAF to meet local water quality needs, restore creeks and streams, reduce localized flooding and protect property values.
9. Preserving Trees: Support legislation to provide greater incentives for tree canopy preservation and planting in the context of compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and related environmental laws. Tree preservation legislation should provide local governments with greater flexibility in the reforestation, conservation, preservation, and management of urban forests to include incentives to developers to maximize tree preservation and planting to offset tree removal.
10. Plastic Pollution: Enact 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 across Virginia, to adequately meet the needs of individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

3. Mandatory Outpatient Treatment: Support refinement of strategies for timely and targeted mental health services, including MOT which show promise but are underused in Virginia. Such efforts much include provision of sufficient state funding for case management and services delivered in the community along with education and technical assistance to stakeholders in the justice and behavioral health community.
4. Long-Term Care Staffing Standards: Improve Long-Term Care standards by providing living wages, paid sick days, overtime pay, and training for workers, as well as funding to meet state and national staffing standards for Ombudsman staff to patient ratios.
5. Child Care: Increase funding for the state's child care subsidy program and direct the Virginia Department of Social Services to enact program changes that increase participation of child care providers (e.g., reduce the administrative burden on participating providers) and increase participation of families (e.g., eliminate child support requirements).
6. Women's Health Care and Services: Support unrestricted access to the full range of reproductive health services.