



2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Finance (Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, #1-6)

- Reform the Commonwealth's Compensation Board's funding formula to fairly reflect the true cost of each constitutional officer.
- Allow localities to severely limit or ban the sale of nicotine "vape" products or provide a local option for a liquid nicotine "vape" tax.
- While York County strongly supports our veterans, especially those whose service resulted in a disability, the enhanced veterans tax exemptions continue to provide a strain on County resources. We urge the General Assembly to dedicate a stream of money to support localities in providing for this exemption.
- Modernize and re-index the eVA website while providing training for all government agencies.
- Remove annual language from the state budget that modifies the distribution of excess fees collected by circuit court clerks between the Commonwealth and localities. Under state law, localities are entitled to 2/3 of excess clerk's fees; however, budget language since 2009 has reduced this to 1/3.
- Request a JLARC study to understand the effect of federal Medicaid cuts to health care providers within the Commonwealth.
- Request a JLARC study to address federal budget cuts to social services programs.

Transportation (Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, #1, #3, #4, #5)

- Enhance Planning District funding, allowing for greater state and local initiatives, which include transportation.
- Support federal and state funding to complete the proposed extension of the Capital Trail (known as Trail757) from James City County to Fort Monroe.
- Provide full and adequate funding for road network maintenance.
- Support full funding for all road and Smart Scale projects.
- Support the creation of a primary and secondary road fund, and the creation of a dedicated source of funding.
- Support the following additional priorities of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
 - Creation of Primary and Secondary Road Fund
 - Regional approach to flood mitigation
 - Energy development for the region

Technology & Resiliency (Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, #5, #6)

- Support policies and programs that advance Fiber Deployment and subsequent 5G service.
- Support alternative energy programs and related businesses. These programs bring economic development, energy resilience, and environmental benefits to the region. Support hydrogen, nuclear, and gas turbine generation.
- Support additional state funding to support the Chesapeake Bay Act, with a particular focus on sea level rise.

Public Safety (Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, #1, #5)

- Create sustainable funding for first responder cancer screening.
- Enhance retirement benefits to 911 dispatchers, recognizing their contributions to "Public Safety".
- Maintain the \$5 million small equipment grant through the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.
- Increase Aid to Localities funding by increasing the 1% insurance fee.

- Enact legislation that makes the wearing of seatbelts a primary offense for which a vehicle can be stopped.

Education (Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, #2)

- Continue to provide state allocations for local school capital needs by fully funding School Construction Assistance Grants and School Construction and Modernization Grants. These grants assist localities in funding important construction and renovation projects.
- Continue to invest in local public schools by increasing compensation for K-12 teachers and staff and by creating and funding teacher recruitment and retention programs.
- Increase funding for summer school and academy programs in order for school divisions to continue providing robust remedial instruction once federal funding expires. This will also provide relief to working families and opportunities for students to receive meals during the summer.

Land Use (Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, #3)

- Request that the General Assembly enact legislation to clean up an ambiguity created during the 2024 Session in Virginia Code 15.2-983(D) with the passage of SB544. Request that the General Assembly state specifically that any requirement to obtain an SUP or special exception for a short-term rental that was enacted prior to December 31, 2023 remains valid, and that any such existing requirement can be further updated or amended.
- Further request that the General Assembly respect and preserve local authority over short-term rentals and accessory structures.
- Amend Virginia Code §15.2-914 to allow all localities the same authority as cities to regulate certain child-care facilities.
- Emphasize the importance of leaving land use and planning decision in the hands of local governments as those best situated to evaluate the individual circumstances of each case.

Public Notification (Supports County's Strategic Priority #4)

- The County continues to request that the General Assembly amend the requirements throughout the Code of Virginia which require lengthy and expensive written notices to be published in local newspapers. York County spent, on average, over \$50,000 in recent fiscal years on this type of printed ad. What was once a reasonable requirement to encourage transparency has become an obsolete, unfunded mandate. Public notices should be required to be posted only on official websites and social media platforms, where most people now receive information.

Economic Development and Tourism (Support's County's Strategic Priority #3)

- The County seeks support from the General Assembly and from our local delegation in a request to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Navy that the Navy name an active United States naval warship or submarine the U.S.S. Yorktown.

Unfunded Local Mandates

York County continues to urge the General Assembly to oppose and reject legislation that would impose new unfunded mandates and fiscal responsibilities on local governments or reinstate any "local aid to the Commonwealth" measures. Moreover, the County supports a "First Day of Session Filing" requirement for any General Assembly Bills having a fiscal impact on localities.

York County Strategic Priorities

- 1. Exemplary Public Safety**
- 2. Excellent Educational Opportunities**
- 3. Value - Driven Economic Development**
- 4. Outstanding Communications and Customer Service**
- 5. Environmental Stewardship with a Focus on Resiliency**
- 6. Quality Technology Investments**

Legislators

At the conclusion of the General Assembly session please share with us the progress on these items. If you need additional information please contact any member of the York County Board of Supervisors or County Administration.