

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 15, 2020  
**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator   
**SUBJECT:** Creation of the 2021 Legislative Agenda

At your request preliminary work on the 2021 Legislative Agenda has begun. Mr. Barnett emailed Board members and senior County staff for input. As a result of these inquiries we have assembled the attached legislative priorities sheet. We intend to present these to you at the October 6<sup>th</sup> work session; at which time you may suggest further modification. The amended document will then be brought to you at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for your final adoption. The Board should decide amongst itself how and who you would like to approach the legislative delegation for the County. In the interim, if you have an additional requests please let me know.

NAM:mlb3309

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & POSITIONS

### PRIORITIES

#### **Policy Studies - Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC)** **(Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, listed on back)**

- York County requests legislation directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to perform a study of the manner in which the **Internet** sales taxes, paid to the Commonwealth, are distributed to the localities. Upon comparison of the amounts received by York County with amounts received by neighboring jurisdictions for specific businesses, due to the shared postal zip codes for Williamsburg, James City County and York County we have concerns that some E- businesses delivering goods to the County may have been mistakenly sent to adjacent localities. The lost revenue concern is compounded by the Wayfair decision which provides for higher internet sales collections making fair allocations even more critical.

#### **Public Safety (Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, Exemplary Public Safety, and Customer Service)**

- Pass legislation allowing localities to build Emergency 911 databases to identify those with developmental or behavioral issues prior to public safety responses. Similar data bases constructs could be use in pandemic situations.
- Virginia Communications Sales and Use Tax was enacted to establish a statewide tax rate and to preempt local taxes on communications sales and services. York County supports setting the tax rate at the same level as the state sales tax rate and broadening the coverage of the tax to include audio and video streaming services and prepaid calling cards. York County opposes transfers of these revenues to the state general fund for purposes other than those currently stipulated in the Code of Virginia.

#### **Transportation (Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, Environmental Stewardship, Value-Driven Economic Development, and Customer Service)**

- Widen I-64 to 6 lanes between Williamsburg and Richmond.
- Allocate additional funds to the Virginia Smart Scale Program.
- Provide additional maintenance funds for secondary road paving, drainage, mowing and litter control.
- Local Assistance Program should include award parameters for sea level rise and resiliency.

#### **Education (Supports the County's Strategic Priorities, Excellent Educational Opportunities)**

- Full state funding for **Special Education**, Support Staff and Operations, **SOQ**, Capital Projects and Maintenance and Teacher Pay Increases.
- Support school **Security Initiatives**.
- Fully fund State Aid for libraries.

### POSITIONS

#### **Unfunded Local Mandates**

York County urges 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.

#### **Public Notice, Public Hearing, and Public Procurement**

York County supports legislation that would give localities the option to use electronic or other forms of notification as an alternative to newspaper advertising for required notices of public hearings and public procurements.

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & POSITIONS

### County Strategic Priorities

1. **Exemplary Public Safety**
2. **Excellent Educational Opportunities**
3. **Value - Driven Economic Development**
4. **Maximize 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.