

2025 Legislative Priorities

October 1, 2024

Transportation

(Supports 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.

Transportation

(Supports Strategic Priorities #1,#3,#4,#5)

- Provide adequate funding for road network maintenance, to include litter, drainage, and mowing.
- Support legislation requiring railroad companies to promptly address crossing and track issues affecting public roads to ensure safety and minimize disruptions.

Technology and Resiliency

(Supports Strategic Priorities #5,#6)

- Support policies and programs that advance Fiber Deployment and subsequent 5G service.
- Support offshore wind programs and related businesses. These programs bring economic development, energy resilience, and environmental benefits to the region.

Public Safety

(Supports Strategic Priorities #1,#5)

- Create sustainable funding for fire service cancer screening.
- Enhance retirement benefits to 911 dispatchers recognizing their contributions to “Public Safety”.
- Seek state funding to support the Sheriff’s office for assuming duties previously handled by the State Police, reflecting the cost savings from transferring these responsibilities to the County.

Finance

(Supports Strategic Priorities #1 - #6)

- Reform the Commonwealth's Compensation Board's funding formula to fairly reflect the true cost of each constitutional officer.
- Modernize and re-index the eVA website while providing training for all government agencies.

Finance

(Supports Strategic Priorities #1 - #6)

- Allow a locality (County) option for liquid nicotine “vape” tax.
- Propose legislation allowing home-based and small business owners the option to either continue being taxed on their business assets or pay a flat tax without the requirement of submitting a business asset inventory.

Education

(Supports Strategic Priority #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.

Education

(Supports Strategic Priority #2)

- 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.
- Avoid funding formulas for operating or capital projects that penalize localities that support school systems at a high level.

Land Use

(Supports Strategic Priority #3)

- Request that the General Assembly enact legislation to clean up an ambiguity created during the 2024 Session in VA Code §15.2-983(D) with the passage of SB544. Request that the General Assembly state specifically that any requirement to obtain a SUP or special exception for a short-term rental that was enacted prior to 12-31-23 remains valid, & that any such existing requirement can be further updated or amended.
- Further request that the General Assembly respect & preserve local authority over short-term rentals & accessory structures & defeat carry-over Bills HB900 & SB304.

Public Notification

(Supports Strategic Priority #4)

- The County requests the General Assembly to amend §15.2-107.1 which requires lengthy and expensive written notices to be published in local newspapers. At a minimum, the requirement to publish lengthy, specific text should be eliminated. As an alternative, public notices should be required to be posted on official websites and social media platforms where most people now receive information.

Amendment to Remove Language on Distribution of Excess Clerk's Fee

- Remove language pertaining to the distribution of excess Clerk's fees mandated by VA Code §17.1-285, which entitles the Commonwealth to two-thirds of the excess fees collected by Clerks of the Circuit Courts.

Unfunded Local Mandates

- York County urges the General Assembly to oppose & reject legislation that would impose new unfunded mandates & 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.

County Strategic Priorities

- Exemplary Public Safety
- Excellent Educational Opportunities
- Value - Driven Economic Development
- Outstanding Communications & Customer Service
- Environmental Stewardship with a Focus on Resiliency
- Quality Technology Investments