

Legislative Agenda Draft



Legislative Agenda Outline

Cover statement

- Policy principles

5 proactive asks

- Selected by matrix
- One-page issue briefs

2-5 budget requests

- Ranked, minimal description

Protect/oppose section

- Paragraphs each

Monitor section for awareness but not action



Policy Principles



Protect Local Authority

Virginia is a culturally, economically, and geographically diverse state. State policy should preserve local autonomy so cities, counties, and towns can respond to resident needs in ways that are relevant and cost-efficient. The City supports legislation that enables, rather than unnecessarily requires or prohibits, local action. Protecting local authority over revenue, land use, and other core functions is essential for effective governance.



Fund State Mandates

When the Commonwealth determines it is necessary to require localities to take on a new governmental function, it should provide sustainable funding to implement it. Any new unfunded or underfunded mandate constrains local budgets and makes providing essential services and advancing community priorities more challenging. State policy should fully account for costs related to implementation and ongoing operations.



Legislative Priorities



Public Sector Collective Bargaining

The City is in favor of maintaining the current status on collective bargaining by retaining local governing bodies' authority over establishing collective bargaining units.

Revisit “Housing Near Jobs”

Due to geographical and market constraints, if housing growth targets are established by the state, the City is in favor of combining independent cities with their directly adjacent counties to meet a shared growth target.



Urban Public-Private Partnership Redevelopment Fund

This resource should be funded, and the criteria defining non-monetary contribution match should be expansive to consider land, waived fees, and other incentives and in-kind contributions.

Assistance to Local Police Departments

The City calls for the state to honor its commitment to local governments and public safety by fully funding the HB599 program as stipulated in the Code of Virginia.



Children's Services Funding

The City opposes the capping of state funding responsibility for private day special education and any other component of the CSA program, which shifts the funding burden for mandated services onto local governments.

Maintenance Payment Impacts from Roadway Reconfigurations

A minor code revision would allow the City to continue completing roadway reconfigurations without impact to the maintenance payments that are essential for keeping up the transportation infrastructure in the City.



Virginia Fire Program Fund Distribution

The City supports maintaining the current funding to larger jurisdictions and concurrently directing additional funding to communities receiving the current minimum level of funding.

VASAP Funding

The Commonwealth should provide appropriate funding from its own resources and not shift responsibility for program administration and funding to localities for this state-mandated program.



Budget Requests



Budget Requests

- Childcare Facilities Expansion Grant Program
- Water Storage Tank
- Virginia Homeless Solutions Program



Next Steps

Receive feedback

Develop final Agenda for adoption

Deliver Agenda to Council and state legislators

