
Powhatan County 2017 Legislative Agenda

The Powhatan County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests legislation to address the following priorities for the 2017 General Assembly session:

1. Broadband – Affordable Access to High-Speed Internet Services

The Board seeks assistance from the Commonwealth that will encourage and facilitate the deployment of high-speed internet services (“broadband”) to all underserved and rural areas of the Commonwealth while preserving local land use, permitting, and other regulatory authority. Assistance should include the provision of economic incentives and favorable financing mechanisms, as well as the adoption of budgetary and statutory policies that facilitate greater broadband deployment and usage.

The Board supports continued funding of the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) Broadband program to provide technical assistance to and support local governments and public-private partnerships to provide broadband infrastructure in un-/underserved areas in the Commonwealth.

2. Mandatory Connection to Water and Sewage Systems

Amend §15.2-2110 (A) of the Code of Virginia to provide Powhatan County with the authority to require connection to the County’s water and sewage systems by owners of property that may be served, and charge a monthly nonuser fee.

3. Transient Occupancy Tax

Amend §58.1-3819(A) of the Code of Virginia to allow Powhatan County to levy a transient occupancy tax on hotels, motels, boarding houses, travel campgrounds, and other facilities offering guest rooms rented out for continuous occupancy for fewer than 30 consecutive days not to exceed five percent (5%) with any excess over two (2%) percent designated solely for tourism and travel marketing or initiatives.

4. Amend §15.2-2303.4, Provisions Applicable to Certain Conditional Rezoning Proffers, of the Code of Virginia.

Joint Resolution directing a study of the current Code of Virginia provisions related to proffers (§15.2-2303 – §15.2-2303.4), best practices for growth management, and the development of new code provisions that provide for equity for the public and private sectors as it relates to the burden of paying for on- and off-site infrastructure improvements resulting from new development. The study committee should include representation from both the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate, the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League the Virginia Homebuilders Association, the Virginia Local Government Attorney’s Association, the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association, and the Urban Land Institute.

5. Declare the Beaumont Juvenile Correction Facility Surplus and Transfer from the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice and Virginia Building Authority to the County of Powhatan

The closure of the Beaumont Juvenile Correction Facility was announced as part of the 2016-2018 Biennium budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The facility encompasses a total of approximately 800 acres and 7,000 feet of frontage along the James River. The site is currently served by water and sanitary sewer. The Board requests the Beaumont Juvenile Correction Facility be declared surplus upon its closure and ownership transferred to the County of Powhatan. The County intends to pursue the adaptive reuse of the property and buildings from a correctional institute into an economic development zone and a park to benefit the citizens of Powhatan and the Commonwealth. This will help the County, Central Virginia, and the Commonwealth in three ways; 1) create jobs, 2) add to the local and state tax base, and 3) aid the Commonwealth in achieving its goal of setting aside a significant acreage of environmentally sensitive land.

6. Full Reimbursement to Localities for the Cost of Political Party Primaries

The Code of Virginia (§ 24.2-509(A)) permits political parties to choose their candidates by either convention or primary, and requires localities to pay for the cost of primaries (§ 24.2-518). This is an unfunded mandate. Powhatan County respectfully requests legislation requiring full compensation for the cost of political party primary elections conducted by localities at the direction of The Commonwealth.

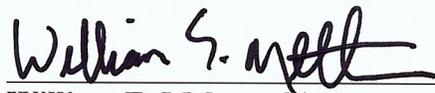
7. Fiscal Impact on Localities

Legislation to amend §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia to require that all bills with a local fiscal impact must be introduced by the 1st day of the General Assembly session. This requirement was previously in §30-19.03:14 of the Code of Virginia and was repealed in 2010. Currently there is no requirement on when bills with a fiscal impact must be introduced, which make it difficult for the Commission on Local Government, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties, and localities to advise on the potential fiscal impact of a bill in a time sensitive manner.

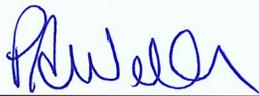
8. Continue Technical Assistance Funding Percentage for Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program

The Board requests that the current level of funding for technical assistance provided to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to administer the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) program be continued. Technical assistance for cost share projects includes activities such as on-site assessment of required practices, development of plans showing suggested practices, cost estimate of plan implementation, construction oversight and inspection during installation of practices, various administrative duties associated with the processing and tracking of cost-share applications and post construction monitoring of all projects as all practices installed under this program must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years. The 2014 VACS program incorporated changes that now allow for funding of livestock exclusion practices at 100%. This change generated an increased workload associated with processing and monitoring applications, and current funding levels should be maintained to provide for implementation of the program.

ADOPTED BY THE POWHATAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON AUGUST 22, 2016.



William E. Melton, Chairman
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: 

Patricia A. Weiler, Clerk
Powhatan County Board of Supervisors

Recorded Vote:

David T. Williams Aye
Larry J. Nordvig Aye
Angie Y. Cabell Aye

William E. Melton Aye
Carson L. Tucker Aye