

# Legislative Update



## **HANOVER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

**AUGUST 28, 2014**

## **2013 Legislative Agenda Action Items Not Included on Proposed 2014 Agenda**



- Request a budget amendment to eliminate the \$95 million biennial reduction in State Aid to Localities.
- Request legislation to permit counties that have implemented land use assessment to designate specific areas within which land use assessment will not be applicable.
- Request an amendment to Va. Code § 33.1-1 to add a third urban at-large seat to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to be filled by a resident of the Richmond-Petersburg Metropolitan Statistical Area. Historically, the two urban at-large seats have been filled with citizens residing in the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads areas.

## **2013 Legislative Agenda Action Items Not Included on Proposed 2014 Agenda**



- Request an amendment to Va. Code § 62.1-44.15:1.2 to clarify that any impoundment release reductions shall not adversely affect the permit limits for downstream activities permitted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.
- Request an amendment to Va. Code § 33.1-23.03:10 to require that prior approval of the General Assembly shall be obtained prior to the imposition and collection of tolls on any interstate highway in Virginia.

# 2014 Legislative Agenda Action Items



- Request that the FOIA Advisory Council be asked to study the current definition of “public meeting” contained in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, including a comparison of the definition with the provisions of freedom of information and open government statutes in adjoining states and the federal government, to determine whether permitting informal discussion of public business by more than two members, but less than a quorum, of a public body would promote greater efficiency and effectiveness while maintaining transparency in the transaction of public business.
- Request that the General Assembly fully fund the Line of Duty Act benefits for law enforcement and public safety personnel as it did from the time that the General Assembly created these benefits in 1995 until the 2012 fiscal year.

# 2014 Legislative Agenda Action Items



- Request that the General Assembly ensure that the state appropriates adequate monies to fund its pro rata share of the required contributions for VRS benefits for state funded teacher salaries.
- Because the state has assigned to local governments primary responsibility for the stormwater quality programs and facilities necessary to achieve the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, request legislation to require that the state provide a substantial and fair share of the funding required to implement these programs.
- Request an amendment to Article 1.1 of Title 33.1 of the Code of Virginia to require that the Department of Transportation confer with local representatives regarding the priority of projects involving substantial expenditure of maintenance funds within each locality.

# Positions on Legislation Anticipated to Come before the 2014 Session



- Support legislation that would provide counties with the same local taxing authority as cities in order that counties might reduce their dependence on real estate and personal property taxes.
- Support the development of alternative and equivalent additional revenue sources for localities prior to any repeal of the current authority for machinery and tools taxes and business professional occupation license taxes.
- Support maintenance of the existing provisions of Va. Code § 22.1-79.1 governing the date for the opening of the school year.
- Support legislation that would prohibit private ownership of dangerous, wild animals, except for licensed zoos, research facilities and animal sanctuaries.

# Legislative Policy Statements



- Support protection of existing authority regarding local budget decisions and oppose any shifting of funding responsibility from the state to localities for new or existing programs.
- Support the protection of existing local government authority in all areas including revenue and land use.
- Support only environmental regulations and programs that are scientifically valid and reasonably cost effective and that will result in substantial and demonstrable improvements to the environment.
- Support equitable reallocation of revenue and service responsibilities between the state and localities to provide for ongoing stability in taxation and the delivery of government services.
- Support the development of alternative funding sources for capital improvements required to serve new development.