



HANOVER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2023 General Assembly Session

2023 Legislative Agenda Action Items

- Request that the General Assembly direct the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study the provisions of the Code of Virginia that delegate to unelected officers of the Executive Branch the authority to issue orders and directives. JLARC should examine the source of such authority and recommend to the General Assembly any changes needed to (1) provide that elected officials be afforded the opportunity to approve, modify, or rescind such orders and directives, and (2) ensure that unelected officials are not exercising powers reserved in the Constitution of Virginia and the Code of Virginia for local governing bodies, local school boards, and local Constitutional officers.
- Support the continued full funding for the implementation of STEP-VA services by local Community Service Boards.
- Support funding to increase the number of developmental disability waivers available to local Community Services Boards to reduce the number of people with developmental disabilities on waiting lists for community based services.
- Request that Section 16.1-245.1 of the Code of Virginia be amended to expand the types of reports that can be admitted in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to include those discussing mental health conditions or injuries.
- Add provisions to the Line of Duty Act (Va. Code §§ 9.01-400 et seq.) that would authorize Hanover Fire/EMS and other employers to provide unredacted information to the State Police to assist in their investigation into claims made for benefits.

Positions on Legislation Anticipated to Come before the 2023 Session

- Support of law enforcement in Hanover County and throughout the Commonwealth, including
 - Oppose the reduction of funding for school resource officers and appropriately-trained law enforcement personnel in public schools throughout Virginia.
 - Oppose the reduction or elimination of the ability of law enforcement officers to assert a defense of qualified immunity without first examining the policy and financial implications, including the ability to hire and retain quality public servants, of such a decision
 - Oppose the creation of a state cause of action for deprivation of civil rights which would (1) unnecessarily duplicate already-available avenues of relief in federal court and (2) significantly increase the number of lawsuits against local law enforcement personnel
 - Support new or recently-added reporting requirements only to the extent that they allow for flexible responses by law enforcement and are clearly linked to the improvement of enforcing traffic and criminal laws to ensure the public health and safety
 - Support for ongoing funding to ensure that law enforcement personnel are appropriately compensated
- Support comprehensive tax reform prior to the reduction or repeal of the current authority for machinery and tools taxes and business professional occupation license taxes.
- Support the adoption of a requirement that all bills that have a local fiscal impact—whether localities or local school divisions—be filed on the first day of a Session of the General Assembly to provide time for fiscal impact analysis.

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 an increase in state allocation for transportation needs throughout the Commonwealth in a manner that results in a fair distribution among transportation needs and geographic areas.
- 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 the ongoing allocation of state funds and the creation of a mechanism to provide for a stable and adequate source of the funding for those regulations, such as those related to stormwater quality programs and facilities necessary to achieve the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, which create financial obligations on localities.
- 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 additional legislative and regulatory requirements for public K-12 education only if they are reasonably cost effective, will result in demonstrable improvements to educational outcomes or student health and safety and are funded by the state on an ongoing basis.
- Support stable and sufficient funding and technical assistance for the Virginia Agriculture Best Management Practices Cost Share Program and the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, because agricultural and urban BMPs are essential to meeting state and local Chesapeake Bay TMDL mandates.
- Support the state-level planning and coordination needed to ensure that federal funding and Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants are used to complete the expansion of high speed internet to unserved and underserved areas of Hanover County and throughout the Commonwealth.

Federal Legislative Position Statements

- Support the reinstatement of unrestricted federal income tax deductions for state and local taxes. The restriction of this deduction constitutes double taxation, increases the cost of these taxes and the services they fund to the taxpayers, increases the cost of home ownership, and increases the federal tax burden for many middle class taxpayers.
- Support increased federal support for transportation infrastructure in Virginia where the large number of federal employees and businesses related to the federal government have created transportation problems that require the investment of state resources at the expense of other areas of the state.