

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

2026 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

October 7, 2025

2026 Fairfax County Legislative Program

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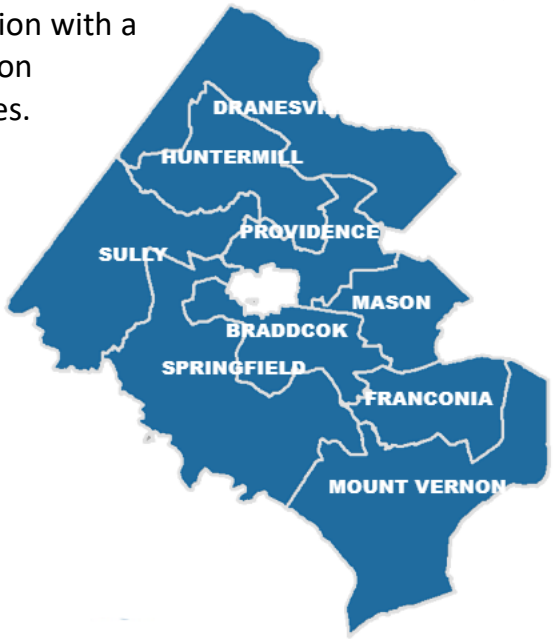
This agenda is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of all issues, but to serve as a guide to matters of concern to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the community at-large.

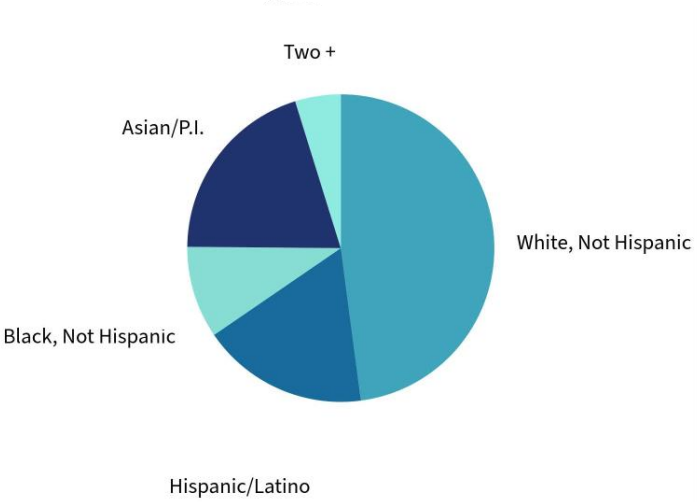
Fairfax County looks forward to working with the county delegation to the Virginia General Assembly during the course of the 2026 session.

Fairfax County Overview

Protecting and enriching our quality of life for people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities.

Fairfax County is one of the largest counties in the nation with a total population of 1.2 million, with a diverse population from assorted backgrounds and socioeconomic realities.



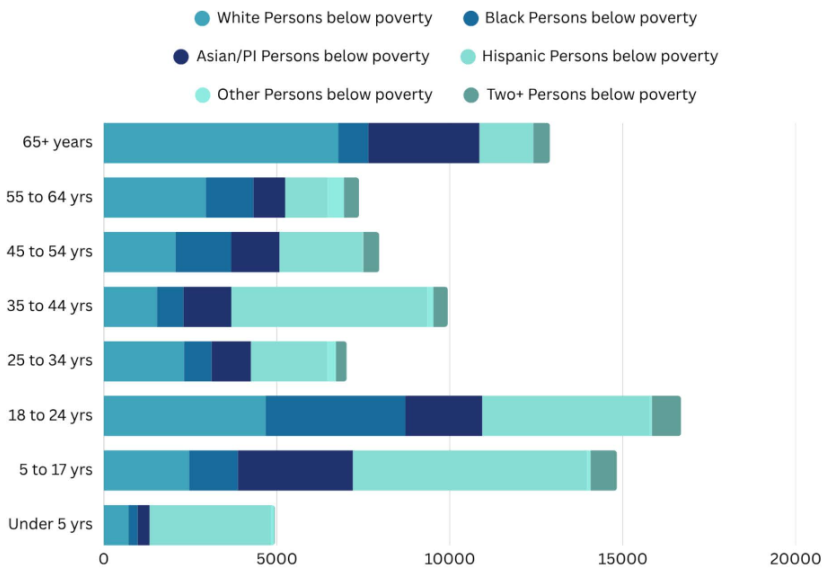


Fairfax County has embraced a vision of One Fairfax: a declaration that all residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed and focus on transforming islands of disadvantage – areas where residents face economic, educational, health, housing, and other challenges – into communities of opportunity.



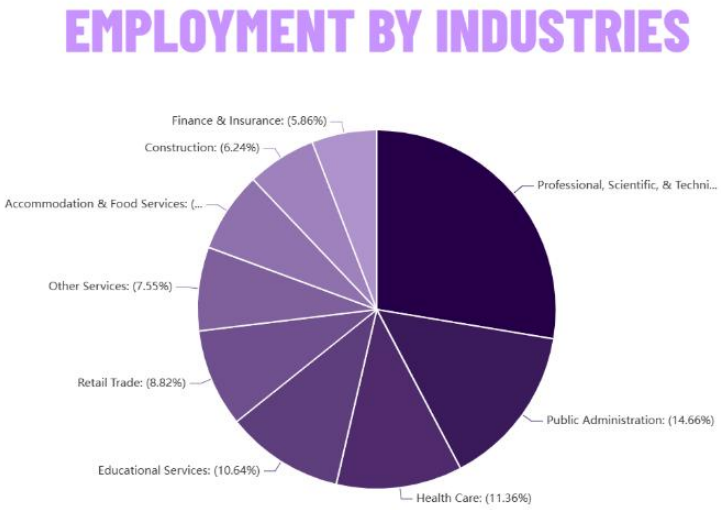
Languages besides English spoken in the home.





Fairfax County Overview

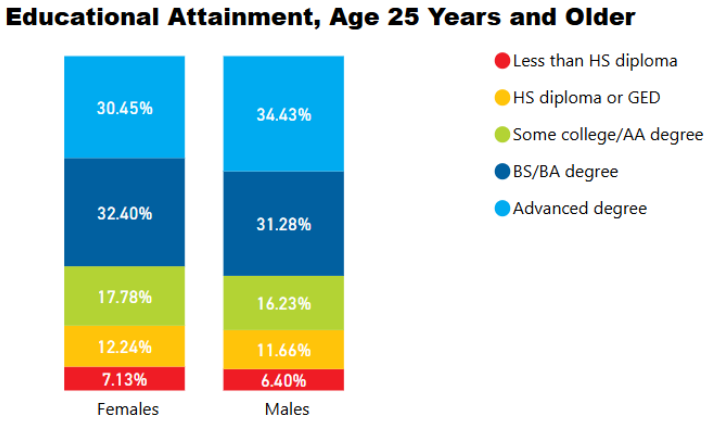
Fairfax County has a vibrant economy with a thriving and diverse business community, including both major U.S. corporations as well as international interest.

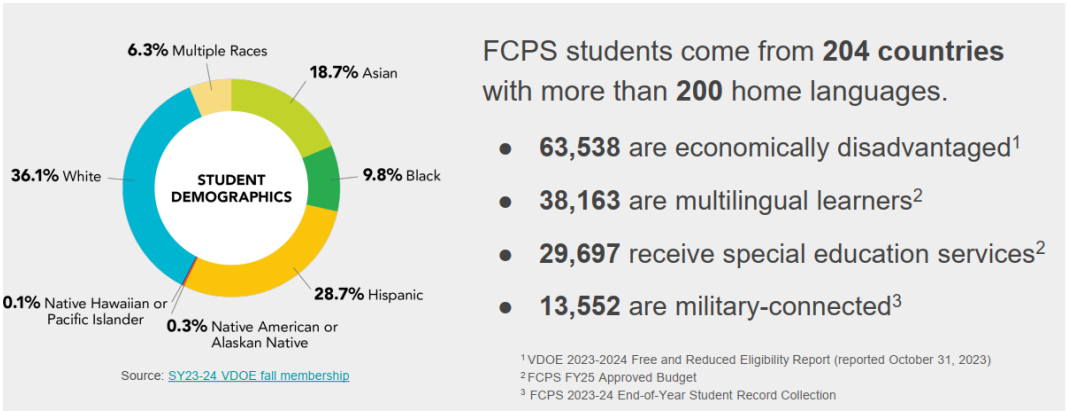


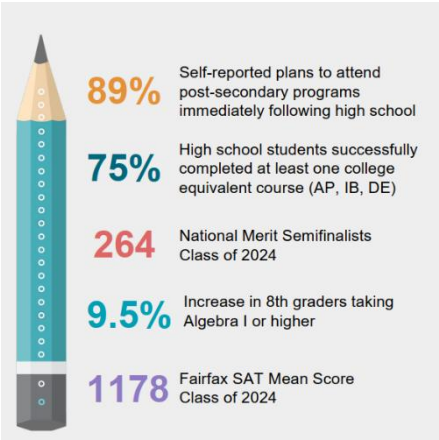


The starting place for any strong economy is an educated workforce.

Fairfax County Public Schools, inspiring and empowering students to meet high academic standards, is the largest school district in the Commonwealth and ninth largest in the U.S. with around 183,000 enrolled students. The student body represents the diversity and beauty of the Fairfax County community.







Guiding Principles

Fairfax County supports legislation, policies, and appropriations measures that:
Fix the underlying structural issues with the current K-12 funding and provide funding based on actual local costs. Fully fund and implement recommendations from the 2023 JLARC report.
Rebalance funding for joint responsibilities such as public safety and the justice system.
Ensure Northern Virginia receives its fair share of statewide transportation revenues.
Advance opportunities to leverage Commonwealth and local resources to drive business growth, innovation and economic diversification.
Ensure and/or expand local control and flexibility in key areas such as taxation, housing, land use, and the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.
Provide resources that impact the most vulnerable in the community.
Promote environmental stewardship and local flexibility to enhance the quality of life for residents of Fairfax County.

Fairfax County opposes legislation, policies, and appropriations measures that:
Reduce funding or shift the cost of shared services to the County from the Commonwealth for essential services, creating additional unfunded mandates.
Infringe or roll back local authority and flexibility to control policies and procedures governing local land use matters.
Attempt to preempt, restrict, or limit local revenue raising authority or adversely impact existing tax authority.
Change the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in ways that impose additional burdens on localities and limit flexibility for virtual meetings.

Fairfax County will initiate legislation, policies, and appropriations measures for:
Urban Public-Private Partnership Fund Support legislation and budget language to create an investment fund to support the transformation of underutilized and obsolete commercial properties in localities experiencing a significant decrease in commercial real estate assessments.
Expanding Park Authorities' authority to ban sex offenders from park facilities Initiate legislation to grant park authorities the same authority as local governments to ban sex offenders from park facilities.
Vehicle Exhaust Noise Initiate legislation to establish a pilot program to use acoustic devices to enforce current vehicle exhaust noise regulations.

Fairfax County Priorities

"Protecting and enriching our quality of life for people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities."

A strong state and local partnership is essential to Virginia's success and the ability of both levels of government to respond to residents' needs. As the form of government closest to the people, local government is best positioned to serve the needs of residents and must have the necessary flexibility to address its unique context.

Fairfax County supports continuing to make the structural changes needed in the current K-12 funding formulas to reflect actual local costs of public education and rebalance the local and state funding responsibilities as detailed in the 2023 General Assembly study. Specifically, the County supports replacing the use of a linear weighted average for teacher pay calculations as well as using a regional cost index to help adjust pay to reflect the high cost-of-living areas.

Fairfax County supports dedicated, sustainable funding for critical transit systems that connect our residents to jobs, schools, and essential services. This includes WMATA and the Fairfax Connector, backed by both state revenues and optional local authority to establish additional funding streams.

Fairfax County supports increased state funding and actions to increase the availability of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing options and enhance tenant protections to mitigate evictions, particularly in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia. Local land use authority must remain central to any strategy, allowing localities to craft innovative solutions that are appropriate for their communities.

Fairfax County urges the state to work closely with localities in implementing the federal changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid and avoid shifting costs for program administration or benefit payments to localities. Fairfax County supports the provision of appropriate tools and investment in staff training to enable local staff to administer these crucial programs effectively and efficiently. Implementation will require significant support from the state and coordination between state agencies and local social service departments.

Fairfax County supports state efforts to support displaced federal workers and federally-connected contractors through direct support and workforce development investments as well as support for localities affected by the federal changes. As the economic engine of the Commonwealth, state support for Fairfax County and its residents during this time of upheaval is critical to the state's economy.

Fairfax County supports granting localities additional authority to address the environmental impacts of data centers, without shifting regulatory compliance onto localities.

Fairfax County supports reforming state tax structure to ensure sustainable revenue streams and provide localities with revenue diversification that reflects a 21st century economy. Due to Virginia's outdated tax structure, the shared responsibility for funding core services is strained and localities have limited options to raise revenues to fund their portion.

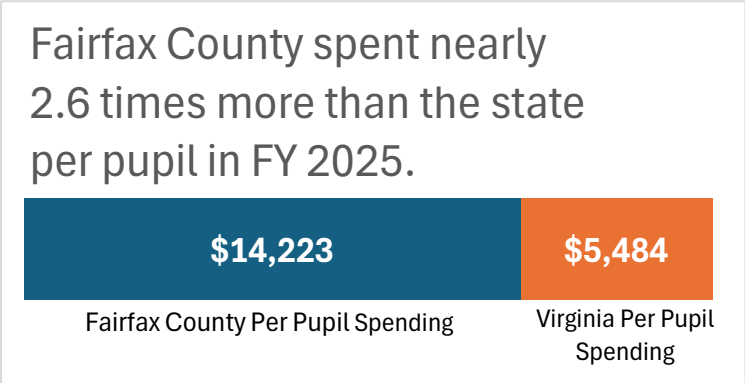
Fairfax County supports expanding local authority to implement automated traffic safety enforcement tools, including speed cameras, license plate readers, and acoustic devices, in targeted, data-driven locations.

Fairfax County supports maintaining local authority in land use and zoning with the establishment of a retail cannabis market as well as providing localities with a share of the tax revenue and local taxing authority. Fairfax County supports one body to regulate all products derived from the hemp plant that also has enforcement and testing responsibility, as well as a statewide licensing requirement with a fee schedule to cover costs of administration and enforcement.

Overarching Funding Priorities

K-12 Funding – Joint Position with the Fairfax County School Board

Public education funding in the Commonwealth is enshrined in the Virginia Constitution as a joint responsibility of both state and local governments. It is essential that the state fully and appropriately meets its Constitutional responsibility to adequately fund K-12 education.



Building on the success of previous GA sessions, the Board supports continued steps to implement structural changes to the K-12 funding formula (known as the Standards of Quality or SOQ formula) as well as ensuring the necessary funding is provided to local school districts through the regular rebenchmarking process. In 2023, the General Assembly issued a watershed report outlining the inadequacy of state funding and substantial flaws in current formulas. The Board supports addressing the deficiencies cited by the 2023 report including:

- Recognizing cost-of-living variations throughout the Commonwealth in state funding formulas, particularly in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia, while ensuring that the local ability to pay is fairly and equitably represented.
- Increasing state funding support for school divisions with high numbers or concentrations of English learners, students living in economically disadvantaged households, and students receiving special education and mental health services.
- Increasing state resources for early childhood education programs which help young children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed, a proven long-term economic strategy.

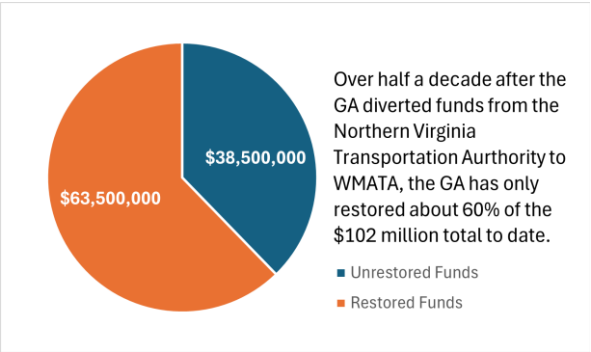
The Board opposes changes that disproportionately target or affect Northern Virginia, including policies which impose unfunded mandates on localities, and policies which divert K-12 funding away from local public schools and toward non-public options.

Regional Transportation Funding

Fairfax County supports sufficient state funding for public transit, including the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and Fairfax Connector, and restoring regional transportation funding. Transit is vital to the economic growth of Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth.

- The Commonwealth must continue working with regional and local partners to provide dedicated, sustainable funding for critical transit systems in the region, such as the Fairfax Connector and Virginia Railway express (VRE), and putting WMATA on sound financial footing without diverting resources from other transportation needs. This investment is needed to provide vital service along the County's busiest corridors, providing greater reliability and access for commuters, workers, residents, and visitors.
- The County urges the Commonwealth, the District of Columbia, and Maryland to work more collaboratively to deliver first-in-class regional transit service. Expanding cross-jurisdictional commuter rail connections – such as linking VRE and Maryland Area Rail Commuter (MARC) service through the new Long Bridge – would create a seamless system that strengthens the economy, reduces congestion, and enhances quality of life across the Capital Region.

- The Commonwealth must fully restore $102 million of regional funding diverted in 2018 to WMATA back to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and maintain regional and local transportation as originally intended.
- Further, major transportation improvements that provide benefits beyond Northern Virginia – such as projects related to possible relocations of federal facilities and projects that create additional capacity across the Potomac River – should primarily be funded by the Commonwealth and the federal government.



Transportation Funding

Fairfax County supports efforts building upon the enactment of legislation in 2013 and 2020 to ensure sufficient funding for transportation needs, including new projects, state road maintenance (encompassing improved repaving, sidewalk maintenance, snow removal, mowing in the right-of-way, and stormwater management), safety improvements, and continued state assistance for local and regional transit systems.

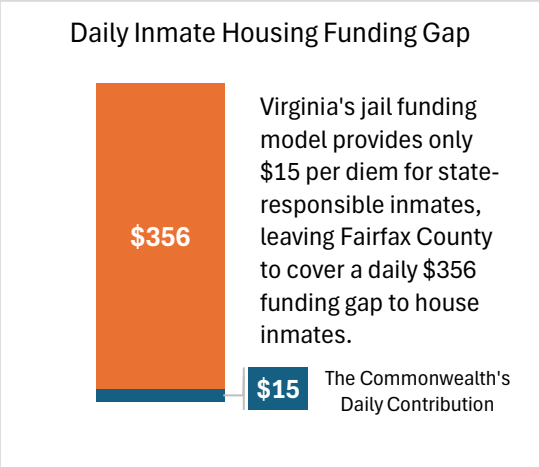
- Ensure that Northern Virginia receives its fair share of statewide revenues, as required by HB 2313 (2013).
- Provide sufficient resources for secondary road maintenance.
- Fully replace the lost dedicated revenue to transportation resulting from the elimination of the state sales tax on groceries (eliminated effective January 1, 2023).
- Simplify the application and scoring processes for funding administered by the Commonwealth by addressing the continued increase in required project-level specificity and cost estimates that change dramatically during the state review process.
- Provide sufficient funding for programs that address multimodal mobility needs, including:
    - Revenue Sharing, a program that leverages state transportation funds by matching local revenues;
    - Construction and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as access to transit, which is vital to moving people while improving energy efficiency;
    - Safety-related roadway projects and programs; and
    - A reasonable vegetation maintenance schedule that does not rely on local funding to maintain safety, including clear zone and sight distance requirements.
- Provide funding assistance for the transportation needs of major activity centers to lay the groundwork for economic growth. Fairfax County contains several major activity centers that generate public benefit for the County and the Commonwealth, and must be sustainable, transit-oriented, and walkable communities to remain successful and accommodate predicted growth.
- Address the capacity needs at the Potomac River, including the American Legion Bridge and Rosslyn Tunnel, to alleviate the congestion and ensure the efficient movement of people and goods throughout the region.

Budget Priorities

Fairfax County supports restoring an appropriate funding partnership with the state to ensure the delivery of critically needed services in communities throughout Virginia. State established standards for locally delivered services must be accompanied by adequate state funding to successfully provide those services and maintain reciprocal accountability for successes and failures.

To better account for its obligations, the 2026 GA should:

- Support full funding for K-12 schools in the biennial rebenchmarking as well as continuing progress made on structural changes to the funding formula to address state deficiencies and underfunding as noted in the 2023 JLARC report.
- At a minimum, change the SOQ formula to replace the linear weighted average for teacher salaries with a formula that better aligns with the actual teacher pay and local divisions' cost, and replace Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA) with a Virginia cost of labor index that accounts for different labor costs across the state (JLARC Recommendations 6 and 12).
- Provide dedicated and sustainable funding for WMATA and regional transit needs with state resources.
- Fully restore regional and local transportation revenues diverted in 2018 to fund WMATA's state of good repair and critical capital.
- Fully restore HB 599 law enforcement funding and distribute funding to localities with police departments in accordance with current funding formulas.
- Provide sufficient funding for salaries of court personnel, including clerks, Commonwealth's Attorneys, public defenders, district court employees, and probation office employees.
- Replace the current state model for funding jails with a model that reflects actual costs.
- Support early childhood workforce investments and substantially increased state funding for early childhood education programs, including the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI). Allow localities flexibility to expand these critical programs to meet community needs.
- Support full, uninterrupted funding to implement System Transformation, Excellence and Performance in Virginia (STEP-VA).
- Support state funding to ensure Medicaid reimbursement rates for behavioral health services cover the full cost of care, including a Northern Virginia differential accounting for the region's higher costs.



- Provide additional state funding to increase Medicaid waiver rates and slots for individuals with developmental disabilities to deliver appropriate community services. Adequate waiver reimbursement rates are needed to ensure availability of high-quality, person-centered community care for those receiving waiver services.
- Personal property taxes on motor vehicles (commonly known as the car tax) are an important source of revenue for local governments. These dollars fund critical local, public services such as K-12 education, public safety, behavioral health, and other vital services. Any proposals to change this local revenue source must provide for a permanent source of replacement revenue that cannot be capped or eliminated over time. Additionally, they must allow for revenue growth based on accurate, comprehensive data as opposed to the stagnant funding level provided for relief currently.

Taxation

Virgina's outdated and regressive tax structure, which requires those with lower incomes to pay a greater share of their income to taxes, must be reformed to ensure core services are funded with sustainable revenue streams and provide localities with the ability for revenue diversification that reflects a 21st century economy.

- Any expansion of property tax exemptions should either be left as a local option or the state should ensure localities remain whole to avoid creating significant impacts on local resources and the provision of essential services.

- Further restrictions on local taxing authority and revenues should be prevented, as they move the Commonwealth in the wrong direction.
- Local government representatives should be included on all commissions or bodies established by the state for the purpose of changing or reviewing local revenue authority or governance.

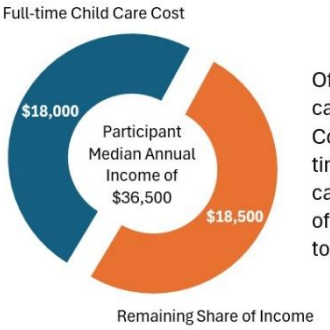
Position Statements

Early Childhood

Child Care

Support increased state child care funding for subsidy programs and improved reimbursement rates for providers. Investments in early childhood programs yield significant benefits, including increased opportunities for employment, higher earnings for families, reduced crime rates, and lower social safety net costs.

- Update the state's maximum reimbursement rates for child care subsidy vendors regularly to reflect the cost of care in Fairfax County and other high cost-of-living localities, as well as continue to provide the family copayment scale to support child care access and affordability.
- Increase state child care funding for economically disadvantaged families not participating in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW).



Of families receiving child care subsidies in Fairfax County, the cost of full-time child care at a child care center is nearly 50% of the participant median total household income.

- Maintain Fairfax County's local permitting process for family child care providers serving four or fewer children not residing in the home.

Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities/Part C

Support increased and sustainable funding and infrastructure for Part C Early Intervention, which is the state/federal entitlement program that provides services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Also support continued rate increases for early intervention services that reflect current costs.

School and Life Readiness

Support continued increases in state funding to strengthen the early childhood system, which includes early learning, early childhood workforce, family support and maternal and child health. Access to high-quality early childhood environments helps children be better prepared for success in both school and life.



- Increase operational flexibility for early childhood education programs, including the provision of VPI services in community early childhood programs like centers and family child care homes, to address capacity challenges, eliminate barriers, and allow localities to expand these critical programs.
- Continue the additional verification window to confirm VPI eligibility for families enrolling after the initial fall verification date, in order to improve access to this valuable program.

Environment

Energy and Climate Change

Support efforts to address the County's greenhouse gas emissions, reduce operational demand for energy, and increase climate resilience through efficiency, conservation, renewable energy, adaptation, education, and other

measures. Restore Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and defend the Virginia Clean Economy Act.

- Provide incentives to encourage solar energy on existing buildings, sites with existing impervious surface, and brownfields. Ensure the fair allocation of interconnection fees between utilities and solar project developers. The present requirement that solar developers must pay the full cost of connecting their projects to the electric grid, including upgrades that provide benefit to the utility, harms the economic viability of such solar installations.
- Expand local authority to allow for local incentives directly to households and businesses for measures that promote clean air, energy efficiency, resilience, new investment in green construction, tree preservation, reduced waste, recycling management, sustainable and active transportation, and related measures that increase sustainability and resilience throughout the Commonwealth.
- Following the federal government's shift away from clean energy programs, provide state income tax incentives and rebates for more efficient or alternative fuel vehicles, like electric vehicles (EVs), for businesses and residents, as well as flexibility to determine rebate eligibility in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia. Increase local authority involving EV charging stations and high-density developments.

Municipal Solid Waste

Support efforts to improve solid waste management and local authority.

- Exclude or delay carbon capture requirements under the Clean Economy Act for resource recovery facilities, including waste-to-energy facilities that use municipal solid waste as fuel and generate electricity or natural gas, as their primary purpose is waste processing.
- Support local authority to require source-separation and recycling of food waste as well as the collection of additional recyclable and reusable waste streams.

Natural Resources and Conservation

Support the conservation of open space and environmentally sensitive areas, which protects vital ecological resources and the environment; enhances natural resilience; provides health and recreational opportunities; and improves quality of life.

- Support state incentives promoting donations to park authorities or associated foundations and the preservation of land for public use through the Virginia Land Preservation Tax Credit, as well as increased funding for park infrastructure development and rehabilitation.
- Increase education to property owners and/or purchasers about environmentally sensitive land, including Resource Protection Areas, which can help protect water quality, mitigate climate change, support greenhouse gas reduction, prevent erosion, reduce the urban heat island effect, and perform other important biological and ecological functions.
- Support localities being granted additional authority to increase their own minimum tree canopy, tree coverage percentages, and overall tree preservation during the zoning and development process to assist in reducing urban heat island impacts on residents, achieving environmental goals, increasing flood resiliency, and meeting water quality permit requirements.

Water Quality Funding

Support budget action providing adequate state appropriations to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) to ensure full and timely payments under point source upgrade contracts with local governments. Also continue to support increased funding to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF).

- Provide additional state assistance for urban stormwater needs to meet federal Chesapeake Bay requirements. The Senate Finance Committee estimated these costs to be nearly $20 billion by 2025. Local

governments throughout Virginia face mounting costs for water quality improvements for sewage treatment plants, urban stormwater, combined sewer overflows, and sanitary sewer overflows.

- As the state continues assigning increased local stream Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) – which requires the County to complete additional water quality projects – the state must partner with localities to meet federal mandates to ensure this effort's success.

Economic and Workforce Development

Economic Development and Diversification

Prioritize investment in economic development during the current period of economic uncertainty related to the impact of federal reductions. As a global technology hub and driver of the regional and state economies, Fairfax County depends on strong partnership with the Commonwealth to sustain growth. The greatest need is continued economic diversification through state support for technology and research commercialization, innovation and entrepreneurship, and site redevelopment.

- Support funding for statewide technology, research, and innovation commercialization assistance activities (including mentorship programs and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) federal grant applications).
- Support increased early-stage funding to strengthen high-growth technology start-ups and the regional innovation ecosystem – including research institutions, entrepreneurs, investors, accelerators, and supportive infrastructure that together drive innovation and economic growth. Additionally, encourage state funding programs and facilities that enable business growth in all sectors, including quantum computing, space-related sectors, blockchain, and geospatial intelligence.
- Fully fund the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund and resources for the Virginia Jobs Investment Program's (VJIP) initiatives, and structure the GoVirginia program to invest in quality economic development proposals.

Workforce Development

Support programs that connect work candidates with training programs to meet vocational goals, particularly displaced federal employees and federally-connected contractors. Promote innovative employer strategies to attract and retain talent, especially underemployed candidates such as individuals with disabilities.

- Strengthen workforce capacity across critical sectors with increased state funding for training, career development, and supports in the trades as well as the behavioral health, child care, medical, and long-term care fields, which is vital to ensuring better outcomes for vulnerable populations.
- Support programs and incentives that encourage employers to adopt innovative strategies to connect with local talent and expand work-based learning or job training as well as career counseling, with a particular emphasis on strengthening pathways for former federal workers and federally-connected contractors.
- Prioritize investment in training, reskilling, and upskilling that prepares all students and workers for in-demand jobs in the trades and emerging sectors, with specific focus on equipping workers at all levels to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) for innovation and supporting businesses through the AI transformation.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

Support paid family and medical leave for eligible employees in the Commonwealth, which improves the health of parents/caregivers, infants, children, and adults managing health conditions for themselves and family members while improving business productivity by boosting morale and increasing retention of skilled workers.

General Laws

Elections

Support legislation to promote equitable and efficient participation in elections, such as continuing to facilitate voting by mail, providing for extended polling hours statewide, and expanding the use of drop boxes. Also support expanded flexibility during emergencies to prevent disruptions in election administration.

- Legislation intended to enhance election security must be carefully analyzed to maintain election integrity and avoid inadvertently undermining the exercise of the franchise.
- Support increased state investments in voting equipment, systems modernization/security, and election administration, including training for local electoral board members, registrars, and elections officials.
- The Commonwealth should seek local input in the design and implementation of the new state election system, which is critical to ensuring its success.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Support legislation that upholds the principles of open government and balances transparency, privacy protections, operational efficiency, and local flexibility.

- Support additional local authority to increase flexibility for members of public bodies to remotely attend and participate in public meetings to ensure that public service is available to a wide array of individuals.
- Support decreasing onerous technical requirements and increasing flexibility to meet FOIA obligations, accounting for personnel and time constraints at the local level.

Libraries

Libraries provide communities with critical services such as student homework support, research assistance, and public internet access, upholding intellectual freedom through professional standards and methods of material selection.

- Support continued increases in state aid to public libraries.
- Support reducing barriers to libraries acquiring eMaterials under reasonable terms and costs.

Health and Human Services

Behavioral Health Crisis Continuum

Provide increased and ongoing funding for behavioral health services to meet the growing demand by expanding community-based crisis care and fully funding state-mandated services, which are essential to public safety and community health.

- Allocate additional funding for community-based crisis and specialized services (including crisis centers, mobile crisis and co-responder teams, early prevention and treatment programs, reentry/discharge services, and other supports tailored for individuals with developmental disabilities) which provide alternatives to hospitalizations and incarceration while alleviating pressure on state hospitals, emergency departments, and jails.

Children's Services Act (CSA)

Support the state's continued fiscal responsibility to fully fund mandated CSA services in partnership with localities. State reimbursement caps – which limit the state's exposure to increasing costs and leave localities to shoulder remaining costs above the cap – run counter to the nature of this program.

- Oppose changes to CSA that shift costs to local governments, disrupt the responsibilities and authority assigned to the County, or alter current funding formulas and increase costs to Fairfax County, where the aggregate local match is approximately 46 percent.
- Support ensuring that service expenditures are approved through local processes under the current structure, ensuring that service decisions are made at the local level and based on the needs of each child.

Child Welfare

Support continued local autonomy and the state-local partnership in the administration of child welfare, particularly by local departments of social services (LDSS) that have strong processes in place to ensure allegations of child abuse and neglect are appropriately addressed. Oppose changes that would impose additional administrative burdens on LDSS.

Medicaid Waivers

Support state investments in the developmental disabilities (DD) services system for critical home and community-based services, including funding for mandated support coordination services, sustainable reimbursement rates, and supports for providers and families.

- Allocate annual funding for new DD waiver slots to address the Priority One waitlist.
- Provide sufficient funding for state-mandated support coordination, which requires more County staff positions to administer additional waiver slots. The current support coordination reimbursement rates are insufficient and have not been adjusted alongside the DD waiver reimbursement rates.
- Align waiver reimbursement rates with actual costs, enhance the Northern Virginia differential and expand supports and additional flexibility to providers and families.

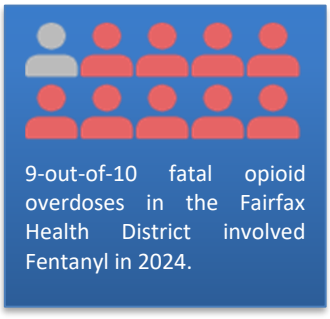
People with Disabilities and Older Adults

Support the inclusion of people with disabilities and older adults throughout the Commonwealth by increasing accessibility to public places and activities, employment opportunities, housing, and transportation services (including transportation network companies) – strengthening the protections offered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Ensure continued access to and provide additional affordable, accessible, integrated housing and transportation options to facilitate opportunities for people with disabilities to remain active, contributing members of their communities; retain their independence; and prevent unnecessary institutionalization.
- Support increased state funding for home care workers, additional Adult Protective Services workers and supportive protective services as well as resources for family caregivers.
- Support funding and programs that help prevent, stop, and remedy financial scams, especially for vulnerable populations.

Substance Use Disorder

Provide sustained state investments in expanding prevention, treatment, and recovery services to address the ongoing substance use disorder crisis. Increasing community capacity, youth-focused services, and flexible funding are essential to reducing overdoses and supporting long-term recovery.



- Increase funding for community-based services in Northern Virginia, including detoxification, medication assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder, intensive outpatient, and residential programs.
- Provide flexibility with state funding to allow access to prevention, treatment, and recovery programs regardless of drug type, while also expanding

treatment for co-occurring disorders and wraparound supports like housing and transportation that are critical to recovery.

- Increase county cigarette taxing authority. Expand this authority to include e-cigarettes, vape products, and other tobacco and nicotine products.

Housing

Local Authority in Zoning and Development

Local land use authority must remain central to any strategy, allowing localities to craft innovative solutions that are appropriate for their communities. Meeting these housing objectives requires the flexibility and agility of local governments.

- Local land use authority must be preserved, and the GA must avoid one-size-fits-all mandates that eliminate or reduce local flexibility. Communities are empowered to act through their locally elected governments to ensure orderly and balanced growth and development.
- Preserve local authority to manage the development review process with flexibility to address challenges such as the need for housing and the impacts of the changing office market in a manner that is responsive to local needs and situations.
- Support state efforts to help fund programs that incentivize development and make homeownership accessible to more median- and low-income residents.

Supporting Vulnerable Populations

Support state funding and actions to prevent homelessness, increase the availability of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing, and strengthen tenant protections.

- Support substantially increasing funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund and increasing the funding cap that each development can request. This is critical to creating and preserving affordable housing and reducing homelessness in Northern Virginia, where housing affordability poses substantial challenges for the economic competitiveness of the region.
- Increase funding for permanent supportive housing units, rental assistance programs, operating expenses, and wraparound behavioral health services to ensure individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorder, and developmental disabilities are successful in housing.
- Enhance protections for residents of manufactured housing and sustainability of manufactured housing communities, including more assistance with relocations and rehabilitation efforts; expanded notification requirements by property owners to both tenants and localities with longer timelines; rent increase limitations, and right of first refusal to localities or their assignees for sales of manufactured housing.

Land Use

Land Use

Local land use authority must be preserved, and land use and development review process decisions must remain at the local level. Local decision making best enables localities, developers, and communities to work together to ensure orderly, balanced growth and development while also allowing for direct public participation in this critical process.

- Oppose further restrictions on, and additional procedural hurdles to, local use of eminent domain which are unnecessary and increase the cost to local taxpayers. Fairfax County continues to be extremely judicious in its selective use of eminent domain.

- Preserve local authority to accept cash and in-kind proffers from developers. Proffers allow developers to mitigate site-specific impacts and assist with the provision of necessary capital facilities and infrastructure needed to serve new development. This authority supports high-quality development, which enhances economic vitality and quality of life in localities.
- Support restoration of local land use authority to determine the appropriate location of wireless telecommunications facilities and set reasonable fees and fair compensation for access to public rights-of-way and government-owned structures, to the extent permitted by federal law.

Public Safety

Courts

The Commonwealth should adequately fund Virginia's courts to ensure a well-functioning judicial branch. The protracted underfunding of Virginia's court system continues to place additional burdens on localities and the judicial system.

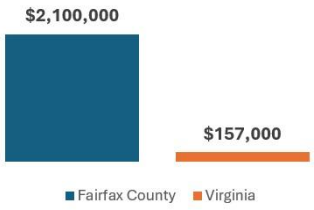
- When reevaluating the need for judgeships and state funding for each court, the GA should consider both the quantity and qualitative factors of filed cases, including interpreters, complexity of litigation type, increases in population and commercial development, and cost of living.
- Support the adoption of a new funding formula for Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices, replacing the current outdated approach focused on felony indictments and sentencing events in Circuit Court, which is antithetical to the goal of increasing diversion programs and utilizing specialty dockets. Also, support additional state allocation of resources for Commonwealth's Attorney's offices prosecuting misdemeanors.
- Provide sufficient positions, technology and funding to localities to streamline the process for expungements and record sealings of some criminal records, including those for certain low-level marijuana-related offenses, necessary for the implementation of the 2021 legislation.

Jails

The Commonwealth should compensate localities at a level commensurate with the state's responsibility for local jail operations.

- Replace the current state model for funding jails with a percentage model that reflects actual costs to appropriately account for the state's responsibilities.
- Support a more robust state-local partnership in funding local jails, to include a requirement that the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) accepts state-responsible inmates into the state correctional system unless they are participating in a local program of rehabilitation.
- The state should provide additional funding to support behavioral health care for inmates.

Fairfax County spent approximately thirteen dollars for every one state dollar on behavioral healthcare at the Adult Detention Center.



Safe Communities

Support legislation providing law enforcement and first responders with necessary tools to help respond to public safety emergencies, protect the community against evolving safety challenges, and prevent community violence.

- Strengthen local authority to allow counties, cities, and towns to enact their own gun safety policies, including banning pneumatic guns on school grounds, with an exemption for school-sponsored activities.

Support a state ban on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and armor piercing ammunition, with appropriate exemptions for law enforcement and military personnel.

- Expand authority for local law enforcement to employ unmanned aircraft systems (drones) for non-search deployments, in accordance with existing exceptions, during active 911 calls to enhance response times, stewardship of resources, and officer and public safety.
- Support efforts to study, modernize, and diversify funding models for 911 services, accounting for technology advancements, dispatch operations, and staff recruitment and retention challenges.

Domestic and Sexual Violence

Support legislation and state funding to increase the capacity for localities to implement prevention and intervention services to mitigate and eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

- Increase funding for prevention and intervention services aimed at eliminating domestic and sexual violence and reducing the risk of further abuse.
- Support evidence-based education and rehabilitation programs with the goal of breaking the cycle of violence for individuals who cause harm.
- Strengthen family abuse protective orders (POs) by requiring respondents to immediately surrender firearms to law enforcement, expanding the firearm possession prohibition to include non-family abuse PO respondents, bolstering enforcement measures, and granting judges greater discretion to extend or lengthen the duration of POs.

Safety-Sensitive Positions

RapBack should be fully funded by the state to ensure all localities and school divisions have full access to this essential public safety service.

Transportation

Transportation Safety and Coordination

Fairfax County supports increased coordination between localities and the state in the process for considering speed limits and additional flexibility within VDOT project approval processes and design standards to be responsive to the County's specific needs. The current process for considering existing standards, including for the placement of stop signs, crosswalks, rapid flashing beacons, and signage is limited and could be simplified and allow for flexibility in all areas, especially school zones.

- Support legislation to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety as well as adequate maintenance of active transportation facilities.
- Support state action to better regulate the sale and use of modified, loud exhaust systems in the Commonwealth *(see also Initiatives)*.

Secondary Road Devolution

Oppose any legislation that would require the transfer of secondary road construction and maintenance responsibilities to counties, especially if these responsibilities do not include corresponding revenue enhancements. Also oppose any legislative or regulatory moratorium on the transfer of newly constructed secondary roads to VDOT for the purposes of ongoing maintenance.