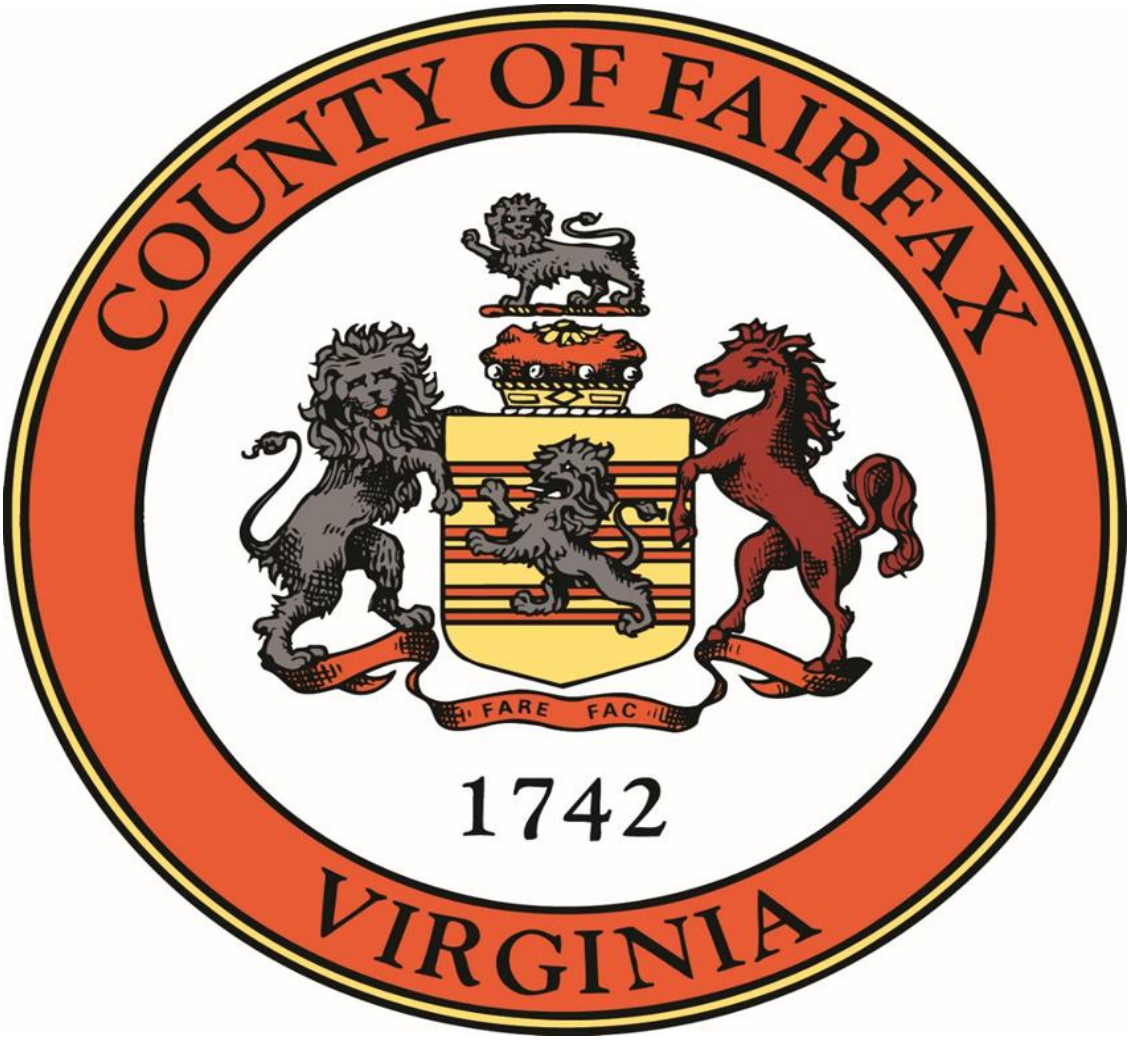


FAIRFAX COUNTY

2026 RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE 119th CONGRESS

Adopted December 9, 2025

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2026 Recommended Strategies and Principles for the 119th Congress

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

Fairfax County's Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on October 5, 2021, and includes Ten Community Outcome Areas, which ensure a focus on the priorities of our community, including:

- Cultural and Recreational Opportunity
- Economic Opportunity
- Effective and Efficient Government
- Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability
- Environment and Energy
- Healthy Communities
- Housing and Neighborhood Livability
- Lifelong Education and Learning
- Mobility and Transportation
- Safety and Security

Fairfax County has a longstanding partnership with the federal government, serving as home to numerous federal agencies, employees, and contractors. According to the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, the federal government awarded $41.3 billion in contracts in Fairfax County in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. Approximately 6% of all federal procurement contracts and 38% of all contracts awarded in Virginia are awarded to government contractors in Fairfax County. With its vibrant and diverse population and economy, Fairfax County serves as a true partner to the federal government and plays a vital role in its overall functioning. Strengthening this essential partnership across multiple areas remains a top priority for the County.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Federal Funding

As Congress finalizes federal spending decisions for FY 2026 and initiates work on FY 2027 funding, Fairfax County acknowledges the fiscal challenges facing the federal government. Despite the current climate of uncertainty, the County emphasizes the need for a strong and consistent federal partnership to safeguard essential programs, advance local infrastructure investments, and reinforce the County's position as a global technology hub.

Fairfax County Supports:

- Continued federal investment in essential core services and programs, which are critical for residents' well-being.
- Federal funding that:
    - Supports state and local infrastructure projects.
    - Generates private sector jobs.
    - Strengthens the County's global competitiveness as a technology hub.
    - Increases federal tax revenues.
- Sustained federal spending to mitigate harmful reductions to high-priority programs impacting County residents.
- Upholding and maintaining the process of earmarking funds for local projects in annual appropriations bills, and opening the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill in the House to earmarks.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Federal initiatives or changes to existing programs that shift costs onto state and/or local governments.
- Unfunded mandates imposed on states and localities.
- Federal actions that reduce public or private employment and federal property in the National Capital Region.
- Federal actions that preempt local programs or limit taxing authority.
- Significant reductions in federal support for critical services and programs.
- Movement from direct funding to federal block grant funding.

Tax and Finance

Fairfax County depends on strong federal financing tools and tax policies to support infrastructure, housing, and transportation investments that are essential to the County's economic competitiveness and sustainability.

Preserving and strengthening these programs will allow the County to meet growing demands while ensuring residents have access to affordable housing, reliable transit, and modern infrastructure.

Fairfax County Supports:

- Preservation of tax-exempt municipal bonds as a critical tool for financing public infrastructure, which has saved state and local governments hundreds of billions of dollars in interest costs.
- Continuation of the Department of Treasury's Direct Pay Program to assist local governments, nonprofits, and other tax-exempt entities with clean energy investments.
- Continued expansion of and improvements to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, including increasing available credits and improving the efficiency of tax credit equity.
- Permanent parity between transit and parking commuter benefits, ensuring that tax-free benefits remain balanced and attractive for transit users. The IRS cap was set at $315 per month in 2024 and increased to $325 per month in 2025.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Federal tax or budget policies that reduce or eliminate key financing tools such as municipal bonds, LIHTC, or commuter benefits, which are critical to infrastructure investment, affordable housing, and congestion mitigation.

Federal Facilities and Employees

Federal agency relocations and workforce policies have significant implications for Fairfax County's economy, infrastructure, and community stability. The County seeks to maximize the benefits of hosting federal facilities while protecting against workforce disruptions that harm residents and the region.

The Trump Administration triggered massive federal workforce reductions and expects to have reduced the federal workforce by approximately 300,000 by the end of 2025 through reductions-in-force, buyouts, retirements, and firings.

These actions have generated immense costs - estimated at over $135 billion in taxpayer expense in 2025 alone - due to paying for non-working employees, workforce instability, rehiring, and lost productivity. With nearly 82,000 federal employees residing in Fairfax County and $41.3 billion in local federal contracts in FY 2024, the region remains highly vulnerable to federal workforce instability.

Fairfax County Supports:

- Relocation of federal facilities to Fairfax County sites with strong transit access and multiple transportation options to reduce traffic impacts and promote redevelopment and job growth, along with the retention of existing federal facilities in Fairfax County.
- Sufficient federal funding to address planning, infrastructure, and transportation needs associated with federal agency relocations.

- Legislative language requiring greater coordination between a federal agency and host communities in any future federal government relocation and consolidation proposals for both new facilities and the use of existing facilities.
- Funding for transportation projects that are essential to DOD relocation and consolidation.
- Continued work with the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) to ensure unspent, available revenue can be utilized to mitigate impacts in the Route 1 corridor.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Continued haphazard cuts to federal employment, including mass layoffs and/or buyouts that destabilize local economies and jeopardize federal services.
- Elimination or weakening of the nonpartisan civil service system.
- Transferring the Space Shuttle Discovery from the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

TRANSIT AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Fairfax County supports increased federal investment to maintain, modernize, and expand the nation's transportation infrastructure, including roads, transit, and non-motorized travel options. As Congress considers the next surface transportation reauthorization, the County calls for robust program funding and greater decision-making authority for metropolitan areas and local governments to ensure resources are directed to the most critical regional priorities.

Fairfax County Supports:

- Dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to ensure the success and ongoing sustainability of this vital transit system.
- Continued federal investment in the Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program, which provides competitive grant funding for major transit capital investments, including rapid rail, light rail, bus rapid transit (BRT), and commuter rail. This program is especially important for the County's BRT project, known as "The One," which will extend from the Huntington Metrorail Station to Fort Belvoir. Including new transit stations, as well as facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, the project will enhance the value of current and future federal investments, among them the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) related improvements to Fort Belvoir facilities, by improving access to and mobility around Fort Belvoir.
- Full funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) formula program.
- Full funding for transportation discretionary grant programs, including:
    - Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA),
    - Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD),
    - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A),
    - Buses and Bus Facilities and Low or No Emission programs,
    - Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART), and
    - U.S. DOT's Mega Grant Program (National Infrastructure Project Assistance program).

- Full funding for the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program.
- Funding and policies that enhance transit-oriented development (TOD) options for local governments.

AVIATION

Fairfax County prioritizes a balanced regional aviation system that protects economic growth and community well-being. The County opposes further changes to perimeter and slot rules at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) that undermine Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD), where most future air service growth should be directed. At the same time, Fairfax County supports stronger federal efforts to mitigate aircraft noise impacts on residents and calls for meaningful local government involvement in shaping policies for emerging technologies such as unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

Perimeter and Slot Rules

Fairfax County Supports:

- Directing most regional air service growth to IAD, which is vital to Virginia's aviation system and a major economic driver for Fairfax County and Northern Virginia.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Further changes to perimeter and slot rules at DCA that undermine IAD, increase congestion, and strain airport infrastructure.

Aircraft Noise Pollution

Fairfax County Supports:

- Federal efforts to review and modernize aircraft noise standards, informed by scientific research and community engagement.
- FAA implementation of noise-mitigating flight procedures and modifications to arrival and departure routes that reduce impacts on County residents.
- Keeping aircraft flight paths centered over the Potomac River rather than concentrated over residential areas south of DCA.
- Federal funding, including through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), for mitigation strategies such as residential noise insulation.
- Continued collaboration among the FAA, airports, airlines, local governments, and affected communities to promote transparency and address noise concerns.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- FAA noise measurement practices and outdated metrics that fail to capture the real impacts on communities.

- Concentration of flight paths that disproportionately increase noise over Fairfax County neighborhoods.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Fairfax County Supports:

- Federal initiatives, such as the FAA's BEYOND program, that advance UAS integration while addressing safety and community impacts.
- Full implementation of provisions in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (PL 118-63) that allow law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, and other public safety agencies to operate tethered UAS for emergency response.
- Strong local government involvement in UAS policymaking to ensure that community concerns, safety, and land use considerations are incorporated into federal integration efforts.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Federal actions that preempt or diminish the role of local governments in regulating or managing UAS impacts within their jurisdictions.

ENERGY

Fairfax County has long recognized the urgent need to address the causes and impacts of climate change, implementing initiatives to reduce emissions, protect natural resources, and build community capacity to adapt to climate events for decades. These efforts are being accelerated through the Operational Energy Strategy, the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), and Resilient Fairfax. Together, these initiatives chart a path toward a sustainable, low-carbon, and resilient future.

To complement local action, the federal government must adopt a bold and comprehensive climate strategy that fosters innovation, strengthens resilience, and ensures equitable outcomes for all communities. Fairfax County urges federal leaders to support forward-looking policies, such as carbon pricing, clean energy mandates, energy resilience, and investments in green infrastructure, while safeguarding vulnerable populations. Federal partnership and funding are essential to identify risks, implement adaptation strategies, and accelerate the clean energy transition.

Climate and Environmental Resilience

Fairfax County Supports:

- Innovative solutions to address global climate change, including incentives for research and development of emerging renewable and energy-efficient technologies.
- Carbon pricing policies to leverage market forces and reduce fossil fuel dependence.
- Federal funding for state and local governments to:
    - Identify climate risks and vulnerabilities.

- Develop and implement adaptation and resilience strategies, including resilience to power outage impacts.
- Promote energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy use, including waste-to-energy.
- Support green building design, clean transportation, and energy-efficient vehicles and associated infrastructure.
- Provide energy assistance programming to low- and moderate-income residents.
- Preserve parkland, wetlands, forests, and open spaces.
- Advance habitat creation and carbon sequestration efforts.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions across sectors.

- Clean energy mandates and investments in sustainable infrastructure and services.
- Public education about and community involvement in green practices to build awareness and ensure equitable outcomes.
- Federal funding opportunities for energy efficiency projects, including in County and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) facilities.
- Increased federal investment to modernize aging electrical grid infrastructure to meet growth in power demand, prevent blackouts, and improve resilience against natural disasters. Specifically, increased federal funding is needed to enhance energy storage capacity amid increased variability in energy demand and supply, a problem highlighted by the growth of data centers.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Federal inaction or rollback of climate policies that undermine state and local progress.
- Policies that disproportionately burden vulnerable populations without providing supports or protections.
- Weak environmental standards that hinder emission reductions, natural resource protection, or community resilience.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Fairfax County relies on strong federal partnerships to sustain schools, housing, health, and social services. Key programs, including Impact Aid, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), affordable housing and childcare support, and public health initiatives, help address the needs of military-connected students, vulnerable families, and at-risk communities.

Fairfax County opposes efforts to shift fiscal responsibilities for Medicaid and safety net programs (like SNAP) to localities without federal or state support. Further, the County opposes enacting changes such as eligibility requirements without corresponding appropriate funding, which often create additional administrative burdens and act to limit coverage and access to critical services.

Federal investments are also critical to expanding behavioral health and substance use treatment, improving community safety, and reducing youth tobacco and vaping use. Stable, adequate funding ensures Fairfax County can maintain a high quality of life, economic competitiveness, and resilience in the face of rising costs and public health challenges.

Federal Funding for Costs of Educating Federally-Connected Students

Fairfax County Supports:

- Full funding of the Impact Aid program to ensure equitable support for school districts educating federally-connected students, including 12,700 military-connected students and thousands of other federally-connected students enrolled in FCPS.
- Revisions to the Impact Aid eligibility process so that all students with military student identifiers are automatically included.
- Increased Impact Aid funding for military-connected students with disabilities requiring Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to address the gap between the federal contribution of $745 per pupil and the average $33,275 cost per pupil borne by FCPS. More than 1,000 military-connected students with IEPs attend FCPS.
- Formula changes to better account for both the absolute number and concentration of military-connected students in Fairfax County schools.
- Additional federal reimbursement for education and supportive services for unaccompanied minors placed in Fairfax County by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Chronic underfunding of Impact Aid, which shifts the cost of federally-connected students to local taxpayers. If fully funded, based on current formulas, FCPS would receive $17.6 million more than the FY 2026 budgeted amount.
- Maintaining outdated funding formulas that disadvantage school districts like FCPS with large federally-connected populations, but lower overall percentages compared to smaller divisions, resulting from the overall student count served by FCPS.
- Unfunded federal mandates that place disproportionate financial and service burdens on local school systems.

Housing Development

Fairfax County Supports:

- Increased efforts to streamline federal regulations to decrease timelines and increase housing supply.
- Increased federal partnership with localities and funding to address the housing stock crisis.
- Increased federal funding and incentives to boost homeownership.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Efforts to limit or pull back local authority and flexibility in land use and development processes.

- Tying federal funding levels to local performance on housing development and redistributing funding to other localities. While localities have a role to play in encouraging development, factors outside of local governments' control such as cost of living and high interest rates, as well as limited financing options for some developments, contribute to builder hesitancy for additional development and keep housing growth rates low.

Affordable Housing

Fairfax County Supports:

- Increased funding for the Housing Choice Voucher program to meet rental assistance needs and contribute to the local economy as the County's largest grant funding source.
- Increased federal funding for housing and homelessness programs, including:
    - Homeless Assistance Grants (Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants).
- Expanded availability of affordable homeownership opportunities through federal funding and incentives.
- Increased funding and availability for emergency rental assistance and programs that offer rental assistance to veterans, individuals leaving the foster care system, and individuals living with disabilities.
- Continued local flexibility through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Moving to Work Demonstration program, including broad fiscal discretion to preserve, expand, and facilitate new affordable housing opportunities in Fairfax County.
- Incentives for affordable housing creation and preservation, including:
    - Full funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) to support acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, and tenant-based rental assistance.
    - Development of other innovative financing tools for affordable housing.
- Legislation granting HUD authority and funding to protect manufactured housing communities.
- Increased federal funding for the CDBG program, at $4.2 billion in FY 2026 (consistent with NACo's request).
    - Use of CDBG funds to meet a wide range of community needs, including:
        - Housing rehabilitation and conversion of commercial buildings to housing.
        - Water, sewer, and infrastructure improvements to address health and safety threats.
        - Human services and community development activities to support low- and moderate-income residents.
        - Construction and improvement of public facilities, such as sidewalks and community centers.
        - Job creation and retention initiatives to expand economic opportunities.
- Preservation of CDBG as a flexible funding source that allows localities to respond to community-specific challenges.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Block grant funding of the Housing Choice Voucher program, which would erode local authority and decrease funding levels.
- Changes to homelessness prevention programs redirecting resources from the proven "Housing First" model. This includes, but is not limited to, the establishment of a 30 percent cap on permanent housing funding, as published in the FY 2025 HUD Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Health

Fairfax County Supports:

- Restoring full Medicaid funding to ensure continued coverage for individuals with low incomes, no private insurance, and/or individuals with special medical needs.
- Preservation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as well as ACA tax credits, to ensure critical health coverage, efficient resource allocation, equitable access, reasonable costs, and avoidance of service reductions.
- Protection of community members' health and well-being through programs such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Close collaboration between the federal government and Virginia to maximize the benefits of Medicaid expansion.
- Enhanced Medicaid reimbursement for skilled nursing care.
- Reimbursement incentives for primary care and parity between physical health care and behavioral health services.
- Robust and sustained funding for Community Health Centers, which deliver comprehensive, cost-effective primary and preventive care to medically underserved populations.
- Increased funding for public health and health workforce programs, such as the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment program and the National Health Service Corps, which expand access in health professional shortage areas.
- Federal funding for Lyme disease research, surveillance, reporting, and diagnostics.

Social Safety Net

Fairfax County Supports:

- Federal programs that help residents meet basic needs, including:
    - Nutrition supports such as SNAP, WIC, and universal school meals.
    - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding.
- Replacement of stolen SNAP benefits due to skimming or scams and improving EBT card security.
- Workforce development investments to ensure residents are equipped for emerging, high-growth industries, with affordable and accessible learning opportunities for all ages.
- Increased funding for affordable, quality child care, including the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

    - In Virginia, infant care is unaffordable for 85% of households, costing taxpayers $3.1 billion annually in lost wages, productivity, and tax revenue.
- Greater investment in early childhood education, including Head Start, to promote school and life readiness for at-risk children.
- Efforts to ensure the basic needs of low-income military families are met, recognizing that many must rely on public assistance despite serving in uniform.
- Efforts to help older adults and people with disabilities remain safe and independent through programs such as the Older Americans Act.
- Assisting states in providing adult protective services and long-term care ombudsman programs.

Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice

Fairfax County Supports:

- Full funding at $50 million for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health issues involved in the criminal justice system.
    - JMHCP received $40 million in FY 2025.
    - For FY 2026, the Administration requested $40 million, while the House and Senate proposed $40 million and $45 million, respectively.
- Federal assistance to state and local governments to develop and implement programs that address the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice.
- Sustaining and expanding local initiatives such as Diversion First and the Co-Responder Program that divert individuals from jail and provide treatment-focused alternatives.
    - Since 2016, Diversion First has led to 4,100+ diversions from potential arrest.
    - From 2015 to 2023, Fairfax County saw a 21% decrease in the jail behavioral health population with misdemeanor charges.
    - During the same period, inmates referred to jail-based Community Services Board (CSB) services increased by 84%, reflecting higher behavioral health needs.
- Continued or increased funding for DOJ programs critical to local law enforcement, including:
    - Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne/JAG).
    - State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).
    - COPS Hiring Grant Program.
    - Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) grant program.

Substance Use Disorder

Fairfax County Supports:

- Increased capacity for community-based treatment for substance use disorder, including:
    - Detoxification programs.
    - Medication-assisted treatment.
    - Residential treatment programs.

- Intensive outpatient programs.
- Innovative efforts to limit the opioid supply, particularly fentanyl, which is involved in nearly all fatal overdoses in Fairfax County and across Virginia.
- Reducing barriers to treatment access and expanding treatment availability across the continuum of care.
- Coordinated strategies targeting high-risk age groups, including youth, to prevent the initiation of substance use.
- Expanded federal funding for prevention, treatment, harm reduction, recovery services, and drug courts, along with reforms to Medicaid and Medicare to better serve individuals with substance use disorders.
- Regulatory actions and innovative approaches to address teen and young adult vaping, smoking, and nicotine use, including:
  - Support for an FDA ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars.
  - Federal evaluation of the health impacts of e-cigarettes, nicotine, and vaping products.
  - Increased funding for public education campaigns on the risks of vaping THC and street-purchased products.
  - Stronger enforcement to prevent e-cigarettes, nicotine, and vaping products from being marketed or sold to youth.
- Ensuring that all substance use prevention programs are adequately funded, cost-efficient, accessible, and outcomes-driven.

CONTINUING PRINCIPLES

Artificial Intelligence and Data Centers

Fairfax County Supports:

- Federal guardrails for artificial intelligence (AI) that ensure responsible and ethical use, transparency, and accountability while protecting individuals' data and privacy.
- Collaboration between federal, state, and local governments to balance innovation and the growth of the data center industry with protections for residents, infrastructure, and natural resources.
- Local authority to regulate data centers, including siting, land use, and community standards.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Federal preemption that weakens state and local authority over AI governance.
- Federal regulations that diminish localities' ability to establish zoning, siting, and community standards for data centers.
- Data center growth that fails to account for potential negative effects on the environment and the surrounding community.

Census and Data Accuracy

Fairfax County Supports:

- Continued federal funding for the U.S. Census Bureau as it prepares for the 2030 Census and subsequent data releases.
- Use of accurate and equitable methodologies in Census operations, including careful assessment of the disclosure avoidance system (DAS) to ensure confidentiality while maintaining data accuracy.
- Ongoing Census Bureau surveys and programs, such as the American Community Survey, that provide essential demographic, social, and economic data for state and local decision-making.
- Development and utilization of new data technologies to improve data distribution, integration, and applications for local and regional planning.
- Long-term federal investment in Census Bureau research and technology to ensure a successful 2030 Census.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Methodologies or disclosure avoidance practices that compromise data accuracy or disproportionately shift population counts from larger jurisdictions like Fairfax County to smaller ones.
- Any federal underfunding or reductions that could jeopardize the accuracy, equity, or timeliness of Census data collection and reporting.
- Any federal actions that could impede or undermine participation in the 2030 Decennial Census and other Census Bureau survey programs.

Consumer Protection

Fairfax County Supports:

- Enhanced consumer protections for products sold by alternative financial services (e.g., payday loans, vehicle title loans) to minimize negative impacts on financially vulnerable households.
- Stronger safeguards in drug manufacturing and pricing, particularly for lifesaving medications like insulin, to prevent harmful practices such as rationing, underdosing, or using expired medication.
- Improved online safety for youth to address the mental health impacts of social media and protect personal data.
- Protections for older adults and vulnerable populations from scams, especially amid rising incidents due to the misuse of AI.
- Federal efforts to modernize the delivery of government services, including:
    - The IRS Direct File Pilot.
    - Improved Medicaid and CHIP eligibility systems.
    - Modernized child care application processes.
    - Implementation of a quality-based Medicare payment system.

Economic Development

Fairfax County Supports:

- Continued funding and long-term authorization for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the only federal agency dedicated exclusively to economic development.
- Sustained funding and dedicated staffing for research and development in science, defense, biomedicine, space exploration, and emerging technologies.
- Initiatives to strengthen the start-up and early-stage capital ecosystem, including continued support for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR), along with funds for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) and other opportunities to facilitate early-stage or angel investment.

Education Mandates and School Facilities

Fairfax County Supports:

- Full federal funding for mandates such as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), along with broad flexibility and resources to carry them out.
    - In FY 2026, FCPS projects $41.4 million in IDEA funding, but full funding at the 40% federal commitment would provide an additional $136.9 million.
    - Additional federal funding is also needed to fully implement ESSA programs.
- Elimination of the "prior use" rule for tax credits on school renovation and reconstruction, which currently disallows credits for a rehabilitated building when it is used in the same manner as it was before. Removing this restriction would provide an important tool for modernizing and rehabilitating aging County schools.

Elections and Voting Security

Fairfax County Supports:

- Federal efforts to ensure the security and reliability of voting technology, operations, and results as part of the nation's critical infrastructure, including funding for technical improvements.
- Ongoing federal funding to help states and localities implement new federal mandates for election equipment and infrastructure, including accessibility and security requirements.
    - The Virginia Department of Elections received $22.4 million in HAVA cybersecurity funds in FYs 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2023, but more funding is needed for other aspects of election administration.
    - Localities should be consulted on funding allocations when states are the recipients.
- Robust annual funding for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Election Security Grants, which provide states with resources to improve election administration and security.
    - Congress provided $55 million in FY 2024 and $15 million in FY 2025.

    - For FY 2026, the Trump Administration proposed eliminating the grants, while the House included $15 million in funding. The Senate has yet to release its FY 2026 funding level for the program.
- Legislation to enhance collaboration between federal agencies, states, and localities on election administration and security, including funding for the U.S. EAC to disseminate research and best practices.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Cuts to HAVA or EAC grant funding which weaken election security and local capacity to implement new federal requirements. Federal inaction on strengthening election security infrastructure leaves local governments vulnerable to cybersecurity and integrity risks.
- Policies that reduce funding flexibility for local election administrators or exclude localities from consultation on funding use.

Environmental Preservation and Resource Conservation

Fairfax County Supports:

- Incentives and innovations that promote environmental preservation, enhancement, and resource conservation, including extended producer responsibility in solid waste management.
- Parkland, wetland, forest, and open space preservation and enhancement, including in developed areas.
- Adequate funding and achievable timelines for new federal environmental regulations or mandates, especially those tied to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Incentives and additional local control to expand urban tree canopy and strengthen community resilience.

Federal Contracting

Fairfax County Supports:

- Efforts to streamline federal operations, improve outcomes, and enhance service delivery by leveraging private sector expertise, technology, and efficiency, while using transparent and fair processes that emphasize the strengths of federal employees and contractors and protect employee rights.
- Utilization of public-private partnerships in federal government operations, recognizing the vital role that federal employees and contractors play in supporting the local and state economy, particularly in Fairfax County.

Homeland Security/Emergency Operations

Fairfax County supports:

- Increased federal funding for “high-risk” areas, including Northern Virginia and Fairfax County.

- Increasing, or at a minimum maintaining, the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program.
- Requiring states to pass a greater amount of available funding to localities.
- Timely delivery of funds and greater flexibility in their use, while also maintaining strong accountability standards.
- Improving and streamlining the federal disaster declaration process, along with more clearly defining the criteria for eligibility for Public and Individual Assistance.
- Federal assistance for implementing "Next Generation 911", a critical upgrade to emergency services in the National Capital Region.
- Authority for local governments to begin hazard response work eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program reimbursement while applications are pending to ensure mitigation efforts are not delayed.

Land Use

Fairfax County Supports:

- Collaboration between the development community, state and regional entities, and the County to address concerns before pursuing legislative solutions.
- The principle that land use disputes are local in character and should be resolved at that level.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Any reduction of local land use authority, including efforts to limit local regulatory scope or impose new, more complex regulatory structures.

Libraries

Fairfax County Supports:

- Maintaining the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences and increased federal aid to state library agencies and local public libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), which funds critical community services, including early learning, summer reading, staff training, and access to Virginia's documentary history.
- Reducing barriers to acquiring eMaterials under reasonable terms and costs.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Censorship efforts that restrict access to library materials.

Local Taxation

Fairfax County Supports:

- Preservation of existing local taxing authority, to ensure accountability and cost-effective delivery of services.

- Legislation allowing local governments to participate in the Federal Offset Program, enabling the collection of delinquent local taxes through offsets against federal income tax refunds.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Federal actions that limit or delay states' ability to collect sales tax from remote sellers, which undermines local and state revenues.

Public Safety

Fairfax County Supports:

- Reauthorization of the federal assault weapons ban from the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act.
- Enhanced federal assistance for gang prevention and intervention programs, including stronger prevention measures.
- Additional resources for staff gang prevention and intervention programs, such as law enforcement data analysts, gang coordinators, and other specialized personnel.

Telecommunications/Communications

Fairfax County Supports:

- Pro-consumer FCC actions, such as the 2023 price transparency rule requiring cable and satellite providers to display the full, "all-in" cost of service on bills and promotional materials.
- Federal grant programs that expand broadband deployment, assist consumers with broadband affordability, and help eliminate digital discrimination.

Fairfax County Opposes:

- Preemption or circumvention of local land use authority over the placement, construction, and modification of wireless facilities, including restrictions on review timelines, undergrounding requirements, or fair compensation for use of public property.
- FCC actions that diminish local control over zoning and siting of wireless facilities, including automatic permitting of expansions beyond approved boundaries and changes to "shot clock" deadlines for action on applications, automatic approvals for missed deadlines, or any related penalty.
- Any reduction of local authority to regulate consumer services, address consumer needs, or negotiate and enforce cable franchise provisions (e.g., franchise fees, redlining prohibitions, Public, Education, and Governmental access channels, customer service standards, and technical requirements).