



Glenn Youngkin
Governor

Caren Merrick
Secretary of
Commerce and Trade

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bryan W. Horn
Director

TO: Members of the Commission on Local Government
FROM: DHCD Staff
DATE: March 6th, 2023
SUBJECT: Draft Agenda and Meeting Materials

Please find enclosed the following:

1. Draft agenda for your regular meeting to be held in person on Friday, March 10th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the New Market Town Offices in New Market, VA.
2. Draft Minutes from the January 6th, 2023 Regular meeting of the Commission;
3. Articles of interest to the Commission;
4. Revised schedule for the Leesburg - Loudoun Annexation Case; and
5. A revised Draft Schedule for Mandates Assessments for the FY24;

Please note that this packet includes 1) the updated meeting invitation, including virtual viewing options, for the Friday Regular Meeting and 2) and updated Mandates Assessment Schedule for your review.

Additionally, information related to the New Market-Shenandoah Voluntary Settlement Agreement Case was circulated separately from this meeting packet. Please contact us if there are any concerns with those items.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact us at 804-310-7151 or legrand.northcutt@dhcd.virginia.gov

We look forward to seeing you on March 10th!





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AGENDA

**Commission on Local Government
Regular Meeting: 9:00 a.m., March 10th, 2023
New Market Town Office - Board Room
9418 John Sevier Road, New Market, VA 22844**

**For the public,
Commission on Local Government Meeting
Friday, March 10th, 2023 · 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

Virtual Meeting joining info

[Microsoft Video Call Link](#)

Meeting ID: 232 171 365 052

Passcode: FGqzn3

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 434-230-0065, 485577326# United States, Lynchburg

Phone Conference ID: 485 577 326#

1. Occupancy for the meeting space is limited, so the Commission encourages members of the public to observe the meeting through the Microsoft Teams link provided above. Please contact LeGrand Northcutt (legrand.northcutt@dhcd.virginia.gov) for information on how to connect to the meeting using this method.
2. Members of the public viewing the meeting through the Microsoft Teams option are required to mute themselves during the meeting unless called upon by the Commission Chair to speak. The CLG reserves the right to remove from its virtual meetings anyone who does not abide by these rules.
3. Access to meeting materials for members of the public is available on the corresponding meeting page of the [Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website](#) and on [Commonwealth Calendar](#).

I. Call to Order

II. Administration

A. Approval of the Draft Agenda (Dr. Johnson)

B. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 6, 2023 (Dr. Johnson)



- C. Public Comment Period (Dr. Johnson)
- D. Staff's Report (Mr. Northcutt)
- III. Cases before the Commission**
- A. Leesburg/Loudon (Mr. Northcutt)
- B. Commission Deliberation and Action (Dr. Johnson)
- IV. Schedule of Mandates for Assessment**
- A. Staff Presentation (Ms. Wheaton)
- B. Commission Deliberation and Action (Dr. Johnson)
- V. FY21 Fiscal Stress Report Status Update**
- A. Staff Presentation (Ms. Wheaton)
- VI. 2023 Regular Meeting Schedule**
- A. Staff Presentation (Mr. Northcutt)
- VII. Other Business** (Dr. Johnson)
- VIII. Discussion of New Market - Shenandoah Voluntary Settlement Agreement Proceedings**
- A. Convene Executive Session subject to §§15.2-2907(D) of the Code of Virginia and 1VAC50-20-160 of the Virginia Administrative Code (Dr. Johnson)
- B. Reconvene and Remarks (Dr. Johnson)
- IX. Adjournment** (Dr. Johnson)





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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Commission on Local Government

January 6, 2023

11:00 A.M.

Virginia Housing Center

4224 Cox Road

Glen Allen, VA 23060

Members Present

Diane M. Linderman, PE, Chair
Ceasor T. Johnson, D.Min, Vice Chair
Stephanie Davis, PhD (attending virtually)
Edwin S. Rosado
Robert W. Lauterberg
Call to Order

Members Absent

None

The Commission on Local Government (CLG) Chair, Diane M. Linderman, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. LeGrand Northcutt, Senior Policy Analyst at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) initiated a roll call vote. Mr. Northcutt informed Chair Linderman that a quorum of Commissioners Linderman, Rosado, Johnson, and Lauterberg were present in person, with Commissioner Davis attending virtually.

Pursuant to the Commission's electronic meetings policy, Commissioner Davis attended virtually under provision #2, that her principle residence is more than 60 miles from the location of the meeting. She attended from Wythe County. There was no objection to her virtual participation.

Administration

Chair Linderman initiated the election of new officers for 2023. Chair Linderman nominated Commissioner Rosado as the vice chair. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Commissioner Rosado was elected unanimously.



Chair Linderman nominated Commissioner Johnson as the chair. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Johnson was elected unanimously.

The agenda was adopted unanimously on a motion by Commissioner Linderman second by Commissioner Davis.

The minutes from the November 4th regular meeting were adopted unanimously on a motion by Commissioner Rosado second by Commissioner Linderman, Commissioner Lauterberg abstaining.

Chair Johnson opened the floor for the public comment period. There were no public comments, and the public comment period was closed.

Staff Report and Updates

Mr. Northcutt gave an update on articles of interest to the Commission that were distributed in the meeting packet. The articles noted that the City of Martinsville has ceased to pursue reversion, thus ending the process.

Cases before the Commission

Staff gave an update on the negotiations between the Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County and presented the proposed joint request for deferral from the parties. The request to defer would:

- Extend the deadline for Loudoun County's initial responsive filing to May 5th, 2023;
- Extend the deadline for the Town of Leesburg's reply filing to June 23rd, 2023;
- Cancel the scheduled meetings of the Commission on Tuesday, May 16th, Wednesday May 17th, and Thursday May 18th from the calendar; and
- Extend the due date for the Commission's report to October 5th, 2023.

With the consent of the parties, Commissioner Linderman moved the adoption of the changes proposed by the joint request for deferral from the parties. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rosado and passed unanimously.

Commission staff shall have a rescheduling hearing with the parties to determine proposed dates for the canceled meetings. The Commission will consider the proposed dates at its March meeting.



Staff gave logistical updates on the New Market/ Shenandoah Voluntary Settlement Agreement case.

2022 Municipal Utility Data Survey and Report

Mr. Chase Sawyer, Senior Policy Analyst at DHCD, presented the results of the 2022 Municipal Utility Data Survey and Report to the Commission.

The Commissioners discussed the results of the survey and how it might be used to determine how many utility customers are more than 60 days in arrears.

Commissioner Linderman moved to adopt the report with a second by Commissioner Rosado. The motion passed unanimously.

FY21 Fiscal Stress Report

Staff gave an update on the FY21 Fiscal Stress Report. Report results will be delayed for six months to allow localities to submit their financial information to the Auditor of Public Accounts.

2023 General Assembly Session

Staff gave an update on the role of the Commission in the legislative process and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Other business

Commissioner Linderman moved the adoption of the commemorative resolution for Commissioner Mahan with a second by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Rosado moved to adjourn until the next regular meeting with a second by Commissioner Linderman. The motion passed unanimously.



https://www.loudountimes.com/news/data-centers-continue-to-drive-growth-in-loudoun-s-real-estate-tax-base/article_12b61954-a7ce-11ed-9616-3be6c72706b7.html

FEATURED

Data centers continue to drive growth in Loudoun's real estate tax base

By Coy Ferrell cferrell@loudountimes.com

Feb 8, 2023

Even as the housing market shows signs of steadying after a pandemic-fueled frenzy, data centers continue to drive a steady increase in the overall value of real property in Loudoun County. The news means that county supervisors will have available a robust commercial tax base as they begin the budget development process for fiscal year 2024. Revenue from real estate taxes is the largest single source of funding for county services.

The fair market value of real estate in the county is now \$129.9 billion, a 14.5% year-over-year increase, according to the results of the annual reassessment presented by Commissioner of the Revenue Robert Wertz and his staff at a board of supervisors meeting Tuesday.

The value of data center real estate increased by \$6.6 billion, or 56%, last year, and data centers' share of all real estate value in the county increased by 3.4%. Data

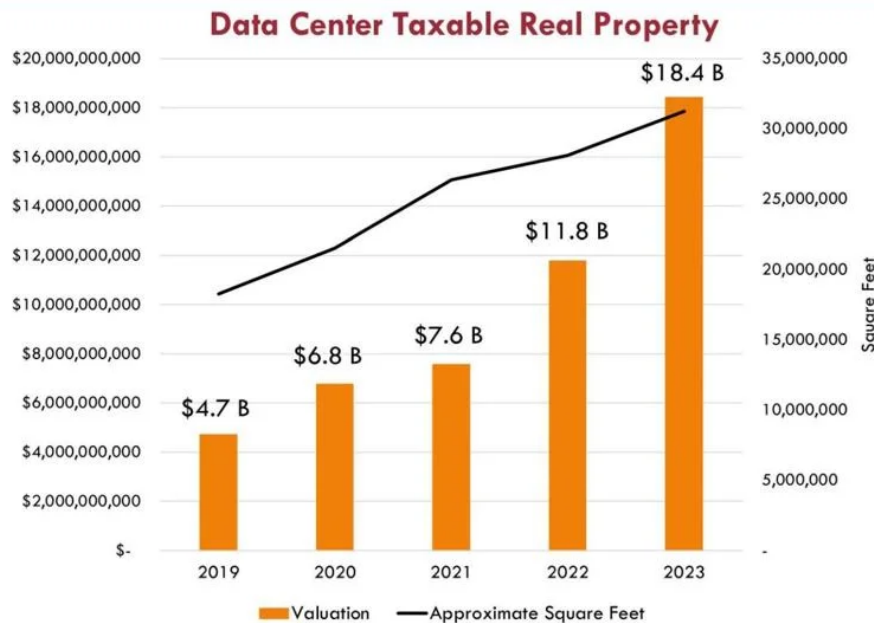


Loudoun County Commissioner of the Revenue Robert Wertz discusses the results of the 2023 real estate reassessment during a Feb. 7 board of supervisors meeting.

Times-Mirror/Coy Ferrell

center properties now account for \$18.4 billion in fair-market value. These figures do not include the taxable value of the computer equipment housed inside the facilities, which alone generates more than a quarter of the county's local funding.

[Download PDF](#)



The value of residential real estate also increased from last year, but at a much less torrid pace than data centers and other commercial properties. Existing single-family homes appreciated by an average of 7.5% and attached townhomes gained 5.9% in value. New residential construction added another \$1.2 billion in taxable value.

Supervisors have steadily decreased the tax rate on real property in recent years even as county spending has increased; the real estate tax rate in 2015 was \$1.205 per \$100 in fair market value, falling to 89 cents by last year. This is possible in part because the overall value of real estate has increased faster than the tax rate has decreased and in part because revenue from taxes on data center equipment and other, non-real property has lessened the county's reliance on real estate tax revenue.

County Administrator Tim Hemstreet will present his proposed FY 2024 budget, including proposed calendar year 2023 tax rates, to supervisors on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 5 p.m.

 Download PDF

2023 Loudoun County Real Property Assessment Update

Brian Williams & Jim White
Deputy Commissioners
Real Estate Division

Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue
February 7, 2023

Reassessment notices

The revenue commissioner's office mailed reassessment notices to Loudoun County real estate owners this week; the notice will include the name and contact information of the property's appraiser. Reassessment information for specific parcels is also available at loudoun.gov/parceldatabase.

Property owners who wish to dispute the assessment of their property may file an application for review at loudoun.gov/reaa by March 10. After that, property owners may file an appeal to the equalization board by June 1.

Coy Ferrell

https://www.fauquier.com/news/how-data-centers-make-money/article_d7150f64-a650-11ed-bf92-b7e6ee06703d.html

How data centers make money

Amazon Web Services is among the industry's big players

By Peter Cary/Piedmont Journalism Foundation
Feb 6, 2023



Amazon Web Services operates at least four data center campuses in Prince William County, including these buildings along Prince William Parkway outside Manassas. The company's data center campuses worldwide made \$18.5 billion in profit in 2021.

Last June 14, a company named NTT Global Systems Data bought a 102-acre wooded patch between I-66 and John Marshall Highway in Gainesville. The property had been assessed at a little under \$12 million, but NTT, a data center operator, paid \$270.4 million, or \$2.65 million per acre.

That might seem crazy, but such land buys are par for the course in Northern Virginia. Data centers are willing to pay top dollar for parcels close to the high-powered transmission lines and fiber-optic cable nodes they need. And data center companies have the money.

How much money data centers make is a well-guarded secret. But one industry-tracking website, Statista.com, projects worldwide revenue of \$341 billion in 2022, with about a third generated in the United States. Among the big players is Amazon Web Services, a branch of Amazon.com, whose application to build a data center in Warrenton may be voted on Tuesday, Feb. 14, by the Warrenton Town Council.

AWS had worldwide sales of \$67.2 billion in 2021, according to its SEC filings, and showed an operating profit of \$18.5 billion. One crude calculation based on dollars earned per square foot of building space indicates that a medium-sized AWS center could generate \$100 million or more in profit annually.

Perhaps more stunning than the profit numbers is AWS's sales growth. Its federal filings say sales were up 37% in 2021 over 2020. Profits shot up 10 times between 2015 and 2021. And profit margins for the web services division of Amazon were huge—nearly 30% in 2021, as opposed to 5.2% for the whole company.

The roots of this bonanza are found in the global data explosion. According to a graphic presented by Digital Crossroads, a data center operator, every minute of the day 400,000 apps are downloaded worldwide, 4.1 million search queries hit Google, and \$1.1 million is spent shopping online.

This creates an ever-increasing volume of data that must be stored, linked and processed somewhere. Meanwhile, more and more companies that used to handle their own data are now contracting the work to data center companies. Banking, online shopping, video-streaming, gaming and more – all are migrating to what is loosely called the Cloud.

Data centers mean business

AWS, for instance, offers 238 products to suit business needs. The company provides options for pure data storage and retrieval, and a combination of services to run businesses – from interfacing with the public online to storing product information to customer fulfillment. AWS's products can help clients store and analyze health data, make and monetize videos, detect fraud, catalog and analyze financial data, or build their own data storage warehouse.

Let's say someone wanted to start a business selling car repair videos. If they expected up to 500 users on their site, planned to store and access three to nine terabytes of data, and wanted to use a web-based front end and customer interface, the cost of AWS's services would come to under \$2,200 a year, according to AWS's product-pricing calculator.

On the other end, if an insurance company wanted to store 500 terabytes of data – a huge amount--it would pay AWS \$11,000 a month, or \$132,000 a year, for the storage, according to the website. That may seem like a lot of money, but if an insurance company is running its own data center, its costs would well surpass that amount. So many big companies are farming out their data processing, storage and retrieval to data center companies.

“If I'm a CEO, I am always looking at ways to cut costs,” said Mike Fultz, a Fauquier information technology consultant. “The cost of buying back-end storage is still cheaper than doing it yourself.”

All this is done in huge windowless buildings packed with computer equipment. The buildings hold servers, which are small but powerful computers, data storage units like disc or solid-state drives, and switching units that connect functions to other functions, either in the same building or via the internet.

In most centers the servers and other devices are stacked in slots on 19-inch-wide racks like “pizza boxes,” as Fultz put it. A modest-sized data center of, say, 200,000 square feet may contain thousands of “pizza boxes.”

Interestingly, a company does not lease a particular server. To optimize performance, data center management may move the software around, so a client’s programs may be running on a server in row 35 one day and in row 104 the next. For this reason it is impossible to attach what a customer is paying to a piece of hardware, and even harder for an outsider to assess how much money a piece of equipment earns for the data center.

Why are the centers so big? Going big allows for economies of scale. The companies can realize savings when they buy or build massive amounts of equipment – some spend \$1 billion. That produces a windfall for local governments, which can tax business property. With thousands of servers and computers in one building, personnel management costs are cheaper.

And the vast amount and arrays of equipment give them enormous flexibility, like being able to ramp up operations at Christmastime, said Fred Smith, a Fauquier resident who worked for NTT and ran a data center in New York City.

Data centers use various business models. Some may serve governments, federal and local, whose contracts are valued for their longevity and dependability of payment. More serve commercial users, either by providing single services like storage or a suite of services, as AWS does.

But customers may also lease space in a data center for their own equipment, a practice known as “co-location.” Fultz worked with an organization he declined to identify that rented a locked space, or “cage,” in a data center in Ashburn. His agency provided the computers, while the data center provided electric power, network wiring, security and cooling.

Some 2,200 companies worldwide offer colocation services. Equinix, which has 240 locations in 27 countries – including 18 in Northern Virginia – specializes in co-location of interrelated businesses. It says in its federal filings that it realized \$500 million in net income on \$6.6 billion in sales in 2021.

Amazon jumped in 'big' to data centers

According to the former Amazon manager, the giant retailer had been running its own data centers to support its online business. It saw how expensive that could be, but that spawned an idea: if it could provide those services to others at a good price it could make a lot of money.

And so, in 2007, the company decided to jump in big. Amazon invested heavily and dominated the market. Fifteen years later they still dominate: AWS's share of the market is 34%, followed by Microsoft Azure at 21% and Google Cloud at 11%.

According to Amazon.com filings, the AWS segment generated only 13% of total company sales in 2021. But AWS margins are much higher than the retail business. In 2021, AWS's operating income margin was 29.7%, while the retail business ran at under 2%.

AWS now owns 41 data centers, of which 32 are in Northern Virginia, according to a data center information website and Bill Wright, a Prince William resident who tracks local centers and opposes what he sees as sloppy county planning. Four Amazon data centers are in Prince William County, where up to five more are under development.

But according to Dgtl Infra, a website that tracks data centers and related IT infrastructure, Amazon operates as many as 125 centers worldwide, including ones in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The difference between 41 that Amazon owns and 125 that it operates may be because AWS leases more of its building space than it owns, according to its SEC filings.

AWS now wants to build on Warrenton's Blackwell Road. Last November its land-use lawyer, John Foote, assured town officials that the project would not engage in co-location or anything speculative, because it already had a client needing its services.

In 2013 Amazon won a \$600 million contract to provide Cloud services for the CIA and 17 intelligence agencies. The Warrenton Training Center, two miles from the Blackwell location, is known to include a CIA training facility. That was to be a 10-year contract, though it is not clear whether it was extended. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Defense just announced that Amazon would share with three other Cloud giants – Google, Microsoft and Oracle – a \$9 billion Joint Warfighting Cloud Capability contract.

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

Virginia Association of Counties • 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA 23219
www.vaco.org • 804.788.6652

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Bill Creating New Stormwater Exemption for Tree Clearing Dies in Senate

[HB 2282 \(Edmunds\)](#), as amended, would have allowed for forest harvesting activities to be exempt from the Virginia Stormwater Management Program even if the land does not intend to be reforested or turned into agricultural use. In effect, these changes in the law could allow for land disturbance activities, not associated with future forestry and agriculture, to be exempt from stormwater regulations if the applicant cuts down the forested areas to harvest the trees. The concern is that this proposed exemption could lead to land disturbance activities for residential and commercial development to proceed without understanding full impacts to water quality and erosion.

HB 2282 has been controversial from the start with split votes as the bill made its way through the various committees in the House. HB 2282 would eventually pass its original chamber [narrowly](#). After crossover, the bill squeaked out of the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of [8-7](#). The bill came to a final stop when it met its demise on the Senate floor, [16-24](#).

VACo wants to sincerely thank our members for their continued advocacy and for responding decisively to our multiple [Capitol Contact Alerts](#) on the matter. VACo will continue to advocate for local authority to preserve water quality and additional flexibility in preserving and replacing tree canopies.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Update on Behavioral Health Legislation

As reported earlier in the session, several bills are under consideration to address aspects of the temporary detention process in an effort to relieve pressure on the state hospital system, as well as on law enforcement agencies. In addition, both the House and Senate budget proposals recommend additional investments in crisis services over and above the funding included in the introduced budget.

[HB 1792 \(Ransone\)](#) and [SB 1302 \(Deeds\)](#) seek to streamline the process of seeking a “medical temporary detention order [TDO]” by allowing a licensed physician who has attempted to obtain informed consent of an adult for treatment of a mental or physical condition that appears to be a result of intoxication to seek an order from the magistrate or the court authorizing temporary detention of the person in a hospital emergency department or other appropriate facility for testing, observation, or treatment upon a finding that (i) probable cause exists to believe the person's intoxication has rendered the person incapable of making or communicating an informed decision regarding treatment and (ii) the medical standard of care calls for observation, testing, or treatment within the next 24 hours to prevent injury, disability, death, or other harm to the person or another person resulting from such intoxication. Several working groups in the past have discussed options to treat individuals in these circumstances that would provide alternatives to inpatient hospitalization at state hospitals. HB 1792 has passed both chambers and SB 1302 is on the House floor.

[HB 1976 \(Bell\)](#) and [SB 1299 \(Deeds\)](#) are headed to a conference committee to resolve differences between the two bills. As HB 1976 passed the House, it would authorize the director of a facility where a person who is subject to a TDO (but has not been transported to the facility of temporary detention) is housed to request a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist, in consultation with the treating physician and the CSB, to perform a new assessment of the person. If the new assessment concludes that the person no longer meets commitment criteria, the CSB would then conduct an evaluation. Alternatively, the facility director could request the CSB or its designee, in consultation with the treating physician, to conduct an evaluation. Under either approach, if the CSB determined that the person no longer met commitment criteria, it could authorize the release of the person. SB 1299, as it passed the Senate, would allow the facility director to release the person if the CSB, in consultation with the treating physician, conducted an evaluation, determined that the person no longer met commitment criteria, authorized the release, and provided a discharge plan.

[SB 872 \(Newman\)](#) seeks to expand use of alternative transportation for individuals subject to emergency custody or temporary detention orders by requiring the magistrate to authorize alternative transportation under certain circumstances. The bill also allows an employee or contractor providing alternative transportation under contract with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) who has completed training in the proper use of restraint may

use restraint if necessary to ensure the safety of the individual being transported or the safety of others, or to prevent escape when less restrictive techniques have been determined to be ineffective. This bill is on the House floor.

[SB 1512 \(Mason\)](#), which would have temporarily allowed certain individuals employed or contracted by hospitals with psychiatric emergency departments who met certain criteria to conduct evaluations for temporary detention orders, was tabled in a subcommittee of House Courts.

In addition, several bills and a series of budget amendments have been introduced that propose to implement recommendations from JLARC's study of the CSB system, which was released in December 2022.

[HB 2185 \(Rasoul\)/SB 1169 \(Hanger\)](#), which have both passed both chambers, strengthen requirements for oversight of CSBs through performance contracts with DBHDS. The bills require performance contracts to include provisions that enable DBHDS to enforce the contract in the event a CSB fails to substantially comply with contract requirements, including provisions for notification of the CSB executive director and chair, provisions for a remediation process to allow the CSB to come into substantial compliance, provisions for termination of all or part of a performance contract in the event of failure to come into substantial compliance, and provisions for an appeal of an enforcement action. These provisions take effect July 1, 2025.

[SB 1465 \(Hanger\)](#) refines Code sections dealing with the purpose of CSBs to clearly state their overall role (functioning as the single point of entry into publicly funded mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services in order to provide comprehensive mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services within a continuum of care) and also includes language specifying the purpose of behavioral health services provided by CSBs. The bill also requires performance contracts to set forth specific goals and objectives related to service delivery. This bill has passed both chambers.

Budget amendments that incorporate additional JLARC recommendations are listed below:

- **House:** Directs DBHDS to identify current documentation and reporting requirements for CSBs and eliminate requirements of direct care staff that are not essential, duplicative, or conflicting. ([Item 311 #2h](#)) Similar language is included in the Senate budget. ([Item 311 #18s](#))
- **House:** Directs DBHDS to report annually on CSB performance in improving consumer functioning. ([Item 311 #3h](#))
- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to complete a comprehensive review of the performance contracts with community services boards and revise all performance measures, with a report due to the Behavioral Health

Commission by December 1, 2023, and changes to be implemented before the finalization of the FY 2025 performance contract. ([Item 311 #13s](#))

- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to report CSB performance information, including any substantial underperformance or non-compliance and associated enforcement actions, annually to each CSB governing board, the Behavioral Health Commission, and the State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. ([Item 311 #14s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS and DMAS to assess the extent to which community services boards (CSBs) are billing for Medicaid-eligible services they provide; provide technical assistance and training on appropriate Medicaid billing and claiming practices to relevant CSB staff; and evaluate the feasibility of a central billing entity that would handle all Medicaid claims for the entire system. ([Item 311 #17s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to report annually to the State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Behavioral Health Commission on average salaries, turnover, and vacancy rates by position type across community services boards. ([Item 311 #20s](#))
- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to contract with one or more higher education institutions to establish training and technical assistance centers to provide training and technical assistance to preadmission screening clinicians. ([Item 312 #4s](#)).
- **Senate:** Directs DBHDS to amend CSB performance contracts to require that any funding appropriated by the General Assembly to CSBs for staff compensation shall be used only for staff compensation and to require that CSBs report annually to DBHDS on any staff compensation actions taken during the prior fiscal year. ([Item 312 #5s](#))

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Plug Pulled on the Rural Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund

VACo spoke in support of [SB 1466 \(Marsden\)](#) and [HB 1588 \(Sullivan\)](#), which would create the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund. This Fund would make available up to \$25 million each fiscal year and assist developers by offsetting up to 70 percent of the cost of electric vehicle charging stations. According to the provisions outlined in the bills, smaller and more rural Virginia localities would benefit from the passage of these bills, which met separate fates as crossover approached.

HB 1588, [as previously reported](#), died early in the Committee process before crossover while its companion passed the Senate and was taken up in the House. SB 1466 [reported favorably](#) in the House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee and was subsequently referred to House Appropriations Committee. The bill was left in this Committee and with no more Committee meetings scheduled, the bill is effectively dead. The concept could still be under consideration in budget discussions, as the Senate budget [included funding](#) associated with the creation of the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Program and Fund.

VACo for the first time added a position to its legislative platform supporting funding that provides for the availability and installation of electric vehicle charging stations. VACo staff was excited to stand in support of SB 1466 and HB 1588 and wants to thank the patrons for introducing the legislation. We will continue to report on this as updates become available.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Retired Constitutional Officer Health Insurance Credit Bill Clears Assembly

[HB 1789 \(Filler-Corn\)](#), beginning July 1, 2024, would raise the amount of monthly health insurance credits (HIC) received by retired constitutional officers and their employees with a minimum of 15 years of creditable service from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per month per year of creditable service not to exceed \$52.50 per month. In the case of retirement for disability, the substitute increases the HIC to \$52.50 per month. The HIC for general registrars and their employees, and local social services employees remains at \$1.50 per year for those who retire with a minimum of 15 years of creditable service. This will likely add \$5.5 million to the unfunded liabilities of the constitutional officers' HIC plan.

The cash infusions included in the introduced budget for June 2023 and June 2024 will partially offset the increase in liability from the substitute and provide a net increase in liability of approximately \$3.9 million. These additional contributions were proposed to help bring the funding level of this plan up from its current status of just over 22.9%. As a result, the legislation will require an estimated increase in annual contributions of \$390,000 per year. This will impact the Compensation Board and political subdivisions that have constitutional officers. The costs will vary from employer to employer given their individual staffing levels. Any increase in employer contribution rates for the change in HIC will be included in the contribution rates for the biennium beginning in FY 2025.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)

Delegate Keith Hodges | Commonwealth Conversations



[Watch the Interview](#) | [Watch the Mobile Video Short](#)

Key Dates for the 2023 General Assembly

As part of its organizational work on the first day of the 2023 session, the General Assembly adopted a procedural resolution on January 11 that sets out important dates and deadlines for the [2023 legislative session](#).

January 11: General Assembly convened at noon. Bills that were “prefiled” were due to be submitted by 10 a.m. All bills and regulations affecting the Virginia Retirement System or creating or continuing a study were required to be filed before adjournment. Governor Youngkin delivered the State of the Commonwealth address at 4 p.m.

January 13: Deadline for submission of budget amendments

January 20: Deadline for all bills or joint resolutions to be filed by 3 p.m. (with some exceptions, such as legislation introduced at the request of the Governor or legislation allowed to be introduced after deadlines by unanimous consent)

February 5: Money committees report budgets by midnight

February 7: Money committee budget proposals available by noon; “crossover” deadline for each chamber to complete work on legislation originating in that chamber (except for the budget bill)

February 9: Houses of introduction must complete work on budget

February 15: Deadline for each chamber to complete work on other chamber’s budget proposal and revenue bills and appoint conferees

February 20: Deadline for committee action on legislation by midnight

February 25: Scheduled adjournment *sine die*

April 12: Reconvened session for consideration of Governor's amendments and vetoes

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

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eNews February 17, 2023



Friday, February 17, 2023 - 03:38pm

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VML News

Deadline to submit entries for VML's "If I



Were Mayor" essay contest is March 3

The Virginia Municipal League (VML) invites students from [VML member municipalities](#) enrolled in the 7th Grade during the 2022-2023 school year to join its "If I were Mayor" essay contest.

Regional winners selected from around the state will each receive a \$150 gift card and a plaque. One statewide winner chosen from the regional winners will receive a \$250 gift card and a plaque. The runner-up from the region that receives the statewide award will become that region's winner.

Winning essays will be featured in the [May issue of VML's magazine](#) *Virginia Town & City*.

More information about the contest and instructions on how to submit essays are available on [VML's website here](#) >.

The deadline to submit entries is the end of the day on **Friday, March 3**.

Good luck everyone!

VML Contact: Manuel Timbreza, mtimbreza@vml.org

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Opportunities

Virginia Registered Apprenticeship Challenge: Virtual session Feb. 28

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) Division of Registered Apprenticeship is conducting a year-long challenge for the business community, member organizations, economic developers, Chambers of Commerce, service providers to support the Commonwealth's Registered Apprenticeship sponsor and talent expansion.

February challenge

Inviting Business Member Associations and Suppliers serving Employer/Sponsors interested in adopting or expanding the Registered Apprenticeship model of targeted, occupational training.

Registered Apprenticeship was adopted early on by the Manufacturing and Building Trades/Construction sectors. Now, as talent recruitment becomes more difficult, the Healthcare and Technology industries are borrowing the concept of earn-while-you-learn as well as competency over pedigree.

Virtual session February 28

DOLI is convening advocates from the Healthcare, Manufacturing, Technology and Building Trades sectors to

discuss how to spread this earn while you learn model for talent development.

Virtual session: February 28 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM EST

[Learn more and register here >](#)

Coming soon: “Mayors and Main Street” Virginia Registered Apprenticeship Challenge

As part DOLI’s year-long “Virginia Registered Apprenticeship Challenge – 2023” the Division of Registered Apprenticeship is looking for new friends and allies among the community of Mayors across the Commonwealth. Contact Patricia Morrison at the email address below to learn more.

DOLI Contact: Patricia Morrison,
Patricia.Morrison@doli.virginia.gov

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Share Our Strength’s “No Kid Hungry” campaign seeks partnership with Virginia Mayors

As Mayor, you see many of these struggling families in your community and are best suited to address this solvable challenge. **Share Our Strength partners with more than 140 mayors from across 46 states and the District of Columbia to lead the [Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger](#). Together we have taken meaningful actions to end childhood hunger in cities nationwide, and we invite you to [join us](#) in this effort.**

Last month, Share Our Strength hosted a [meeting](#) of the [Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger](#). The event focused on opportunities to address childhood hunger at the local and federal levels. The Mayors Alliance is a nonpartisan coalition of more than 140 mayors from 46 states and Washington, DC, working in partnership with Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry campaign committed to taking meaningful actions to end childhood hunger in cities nationwide.

At the event, Mayor John Giles of Mesa, AZ, and Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome of Baton Rouge, LA, were

announced as the Mayors Alliance's Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023, respectively. The event also featured a briefing from the White House Domestic Policy Council on the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, remarks from Mayor Eric Adams of New York City, and a panel discussion that included House Agriculture Chair GT Thompson (R-PA) and Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA).

Share Our Strength will continue to work with the Mayors Alliance leadership to implement strategies that will address childhood hunger in their communities. Among the priorities for the next year will be collaboration with the Biden-Harris Administration on the implementation of the White House Strategy, sharing best practices, engaging mayors in policy debates at the state and federal levels, and bringing in even more members from across the country.

Since its launch in January 2022, the Mayors Alliance has already made an impact. It engaged in collective advocacy at the federal level on critical issues related to child hunger, including child nutrition waivers, and offered virtual briefings on emerging topics such as new federal regulations and tax credits, and connected mayors to their peers who shared strategies to address child hunger in communities. Led by Mayor Levar Stoney, City of Richmond, VA and Mayor John Giles, City of Mesa, AZ in its inaugural year, the coalition is poised to advance its goal to end childhood hunger under the leadership of Chair Mayor John Giles, Mesa, AZ and Vice-Chair Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, Baton Rouge, LA. To find out more about the Mayors Alliance, I invite you to review its website, mayorshungeralliance.org, which features a brief [video](#) of member mayors describing why they joined the Mayors Alliance and took the pledge to end childhood hunger in their cities.

Share Our Strength Contact: mayors@strength.org

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Resources

U.S. Treasury's contact centers open ahead of April deadline

The U.S. Department of Treasury announced this week that starting on February 21 the contact centers for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, Homeowner Assistance Fund, and Emergency Rental Assistance program will reopen. As you might remember, in October 2022, Treasury shut down the contact centers due to budget limitations.

The message from Treasury was as follows:

Treasury is pleased to announce the Office of Recovery Programs Contact Center will be reopening starting on February 21, 2023.

As you know, the Contact Center closed last year due to an administrative funding shortfall, which impacted Treasury's ability to provide support to recipients of funding from the Office of Recovery Programs. However, late last year Congress provided additional resources for the Office of Recovery Programs in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. As a result, Treasury is able to reopen the Contact Center in order to better support recipients by answering their phone and email inquiries.

However, for faster service, Treasury continues to encourage recipients to use Self-Service Resources (Treasury's [Self-Service Resources](#)) as the first step for all questions and inquiries. If questions cannot be resolved through these Self-Service Resources, recipients may reach out to the Contact Center for questions related to recovery programs as follows starting on February 21:

- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:
SLFRF@treasury.gov or call (844) 529-9527
- Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency:
LATCF@treasury.gov or call (844) 529-9527
- Emergency Rental Assistance program:
EmergencyRentalAssistance@treasury.gov or 877-398-5861
- Homeowners Assistance Fund: For states and territories:
HAF@treasury.gov; for tribes: HAF_Tribal@treasury.gov; or 877-398-5861

Office of Recovery Programs Contact: slfrf@treasury.gov

Comments and questions about this website or the data provided may be addressed to Manuel Timbreza
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Virginia Municipal League
P.O. Box 12164, Richmond, VA 23241
13 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219
804-649-8471



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Loudoun/Leesburg Hearing Schedule: August 22-25th, 2023

May 5th, 2023 - Initial filings due (County)		
June 23rd, 2023 - Reply filings Due (Town)		
Tuesday, August 22nd - Oral Arguments and Public Hearing		
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Arrival and site visit	Commissioners, staff, and parties
Wednesday, August 23rd - Oral Arguments and Public Hearing		
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Argument	Town
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Break (Lunch)	
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Argument	Town
Thursday, August 24th - Oral Arguments and Public Hearing		
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Argument	County
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Break (Lunch)	
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Argument	County
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Break (Dinner)	
7:00 p.m. - TBD	Public Hearing	Commissioners, staff, and public
Friday, August 25th - Oral Arguments and Public Hearing		
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Rebuttal	Town
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Surrebuttal (if necessary)	County
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Closing	Town
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Closing	County

STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Approved Schedule of Assessment Periods – July 2023 through June 2024
For Executive Agency Assessment of Catalogued Mandates

AGENCY	Catalog Number	Assessment Period
Mandate Short Title		
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES		
Waiver Process for Law Enforcement Agencies to use Certain Military Property	SPSHS.DCJS043	1/1/24 - 3/30/24
Professional Standards of Conduct and Decertification of Law Enforcement Officers	SPSHS.DCJS041	1/1/24 - 3/30/24
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION		
Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program	SNHR.DCR029	4/1/24 - 6/30/24
Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund	SNHR.DCR003	4/1/24 - 6/30/24
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY		
Underground Storage Tank	SNR.DEQ019	9/1/23 - 11/30/23
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE		
Youth Justice Diversion Programs	SPSHS.DJJ018	9/1/23 - 11/30/23
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
Teacher License Required	SOE.DOE174	8/1/23 - 10/31/23
Self-Assessment and Action Planning for Inclusion Practices	SOE.DOE175	8/1/23 - 10/31/23
Student Achievement and Graduation Requirements	SOE.DOE176	8/1/23 - 10/31/23
Carbon Monoxide Detectors Required	SOE.DOE177	8/1/23 - 10/31/23
Participation in the Afterschool Meal Program	SOE.DOE178	8/1/23 - 10/31/23
Availability of In-person and Virtual Learning to All Students	SOE.DOE179	3/1/24 - 5/31/24
Seizure Management and Action Plans	SOE.DOE180	3/1/24 - 5/31/24
COVID-19 Mitigation Plan on School Board Website	SOE.DOE181	3/1/24 - 5/31/24
Teacher License Required	SOE.DOE004	3/1/24 - 5/31/24

Possession and Self-Administration of Asthma Medications and Epinephrine	SOE.DOE112	3/1/24 - 5/31/24
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS		
Covered Practices and Preclearance Requirements	SOA.ELECT010	8/1/23 - 10/31/23
Electoral Board, Registrar, and Officers of Election	SOA.ELECT002	8/1/23 - 10/31/23
Polling Place and Registration Facilities	SOA.ELECT003	8/1/23 - 10/31/23
Public Notification Requirements for General Registrars	SOA.ELECT007	8/1/23 - 10/31/23
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH		
Onsite Sewage Systems	SHHR.VDH037	7/1/23 - 9/30/23
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION		
Urban Street Maintenance Payments	STO.VDOT011	3/1/24 - 5/31/24
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE		
Community Policing	SPSHS.VSP019	9/1/23 - 9/30/23
Photo Speed Monitoring	SPSHS.VSP020	10/1/23 - 10/31/23