



HANOVER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2021 General Assembly Session

2021 Legislative Agenda Action Items

- Support the continued full funding for the implementation of STEP-VA services by local Community Service Boards.
- Support funding to increase the number of developmental disability waivers available to local Community Services Boards to reduce the number of people with developmental disabilities on waiting lists for community based services.
- Support expansion of authority and discretion of Resident Administrators of the Virginia Department of Transportation to approve modifications to design standards where appropriate to encourage economic development, recognize local topographic constraints, or address the off-site impacts of development as negotiated through the rezoning process.
- Request that the date of primary elections held in the month of June be changed from the second Tuesday to the third Tuesday in June and to change candidate filing deadlines to reflect that change of date. This change would reduce interference with school functions, enhance student safety, and facilitate the conduct of primary elections.
- Request that the General Assembly provide additional funding for Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants and other programs to expand high speed internet to unserved and underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

Positions on Legislation Anticipated to Come before the 2021 Session

- Support comprehensive tax reform prior to the reduction or repeal of the current authority for machinery and tools taxes and business professional occupation license taxes.
- Support the adoption of a requirement that all bills that have a local fiscal impact—whether localities or local school divisions—be filed on the first day of a Session of the General Assembly to provide time for fiscal impact analysis.
- Support (1) dedicated state funding for both capital and operational costs to improve school security and (2) continued local authority to implement appropriate security measures.

Legislative Policy Statements

- Support protection of existing authority regarding local budget decisions and oppose any shifting of funding responsibility from the state to localities for new or existing programs.
- Support an increase in state allocation for transportation needs throughout the Commonwealth in a manner that results in a fair distribution among transportation needs and geographic areas.
- Support the protection of existing local government authority in all areas including revenue and land use.
- Support only environmental regulations and programs that are scientifically valid and reasonably cost effective and that will result in substantial and demonstrable improvements to the environment.
- Support the ongoing allocation of state funds and the creation of a mechanism to provide for a stable and adequate source of the funding for those regulations, such as those related to stormwater quality programs and facilities necessary to achieve the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, which create financial obligations on localities.
- Support equitable reallocation of revenue and service responsibilities between the state and localities to provide for ongoing stability in taxation and the delivery of government services.
- Support additional legislative and regulatory requirements for public K-12 education only if they are reasonably cost effective, will result in demonstrable improvements to educational outcomes or student health and safety and are funded by the state on an ongoing basis.
- Support stable and sufficient funding and technical assistance for the Virginia Agriculture Best Management Practices Cost Share Program and the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, because agricultural and urban BMPs are essential to meeting state and local Chesapeake Bay TMDL mandates.
- Support comprehensive planning and increased funding for the expansion of high speed internet to unserved and underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

Federal Legislative Position Statements

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