



# HANOVER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## 2017 General Assembly Session

### **2017 Legislative Agenda Action Items**

- 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. Because many localities use public school buildings for polling places, this change would minimize the number of occasions when primary elections held in June would take place while public schools are still in session. This change would reduce interference with school functions, enhance student safety and facilitate the conduct of primary elections.
- Request that the General Assembly amend the provisions of the Code of Virginia regarding the acceptance of proffers in residential rezonings to (1) clarify that localities can accept proffers reasonably calculated to mitigate the pro-rated impact of new development on existing public capital facilities and (2) remove provisions related to the award of attorneys' fees.

### **Positions on Legislation Anticipated to Come before the 2017 Session**

- Support legislation that would provide counties with the same local taxing authority as cities in order that counties might reduce their dependence on real estate and personal property taxes.
- Support the development of alternative and equivalent additional revenue sources for localities prior to any repeal of the current authority for machinery and tools taxes and business professional occupation license taxes.
- Support maintenance of the existing provisions of Va. Code § 22.1-79.1 governing the date for the opening of the school year.
- 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.
- Oppose legislation that would preempt local zoning authority over the short term rental of residential properties.

### **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 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 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 have been adopted and 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.