

**Goochland County
2018 Legislative Agenda**

Priority Requests – County

1. Transportation of Sludge

Goochland County requests legislation to regulate the safety of farm vehicles transporting fertilizers, chemicals, sewage sludge and industrial sludge. In addition, the County requests legislation to regulate the time of transport of sewage sludge and industrial sludge.

Regulations shall include the requirement that individuals transporting fertilizers, chemicals, sewage sludge and industrial sludge shall maintain adequate liability insurance coverage during transportation.

2. Economic Development Authority (EDA) Composition

Goochland County requests legislation to amend Section 15.2-4904(A) of the Code of Virginia to allow the board of supervisors of Goochland County to appoint five members to serve on the board of the Economic Development Authority and to designate that three members shall constitute a quorum of the board.

3. Clarify “Capacity” of Public Facilities as used to Evaluate Proffer Submissions in Residential Rezoning Requests

Goochland County requests legislation to amend the provision of Section 15.2-2303.4(C) of the Code of Virginia that provides that new residential development can only offer to address a specifically attributable impact on the locality’s public facilities if the development creates a need for public facility improvements “in excess of existing public facility capacity at the time of the rezoning.”

The requested amendment would clarify that the “existing public facility capacity at the time of the rezoning” may take into account the impacts anticipated from previously-approved residential developments, or portions of them, which have not yet been completed. The current standard is inherently unworkable in light of the time lag between approval of a residential development and its impact on public facilities, as well as the length of time it takes to plan for, fund, and construct a public facility improvement. This amendment will tighten the nexus between a residential development’s specific impacts and its proffers as well as more accurately reflect the capital planning process for the anticipated impacts of residential development in the locality.

4. Expand Broadband

Goochland County supports additional funding and improvements to existing state law to make it easier for wireless communication companies to either use existing tall structures or build communication structures as long as localities ability to regulate land use is preserved. The County is not opposed to new technology or to additional towers within Goochland County.

5. Reimbursement for the Compensation and Expense of the Electoral Board and the General Registrar

Goochland County requests legislation for the full compensation and expenses of the Electoral Board and the General Registrar.

The Appropriations Act has previously reduced the funds available to localities for Financial Assistance for General Registrar Compensation (78001) and for Local Electoral Board Compensation and Expenses (78002).

6. Reimbursement for Political Party Primaries

Goochland County requests legislation to amend Section 24.2-518 and Section 24.2-545(F) of the Code of Virginia to require full compensation from political parties for primary elections conducted by localities at the direction of the Commonwealth.

Currently, Section 24.2-518 of the Code of Virginia requires localities to pay the costs of political party primaries, with the exception of presidential primaries. In the past sixteen (16) years [2001-2017] Goochland County has been required to hold twelve (12) primaries not including presidential primaries.

7. Integrated Directional Signing Program – Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) & Specific Travel Services (Logo) Signing

Goochland County requests support for a petition for rulemaking for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to amend 24VAC30-551-30(D) to add “drive-in theaters” to the list of acceptable sites for tourist directional signs. In addition, “drive-in theaters” should be added to the list of sites exempted from specific hours of operation outlined in 24VAC30-551-30(B)(3) and 24VAC30-551-30(B)(4).

Additionally, 24VAC30-551-20(D)(7) should be amended to add “drive-in theaters” to the list of acceptable sites for specific travel services (logo) signs. In addition, “drive-in theaters” should be added to the list of sites exempted from specific hours of operation outlined in 24VAC30-551-20(D)(4).

Currently, drive-in theaters are considered to be similar to movie theaters, which are prohibited under these regulations. Drive-in theaters should be allowed on tourist directional signs and specific travel services (logo) signs because they help to preserve a rapidly diminishing American tradition; currently only six exist in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Priority Requests – Schools

1. Permit local flexibility to establish alternative licensure criteria and metrics for teacher licensure

The Goochland County School Board supports legislation that will allow the state School Board to increase its flexibility in establishing alternative licensure criteria and metrics that will allow provisionally licensed teachers to receive their full professional license based on performance-based standards and criteria. The performance-based criteria would be combined with 3 years of supervised work experience and successful performance as measured by the employee's summative performance evaluation to allow a teacher to earn their full certification. These performance based measures would serve as an alternative to current standardized assessment currently in existence.

2. Eliminate the requirement for school to begin after Labor Day

The School Board seeks legislation to amend Section 22.1-79.1 of the Code of Virginia to allow local school boards to be responsible for determining the opening day of school.

Even though Goochland receives this waiver now, we could face the potential for losing our waiver in the future and the current schedule is better for our community. We believe that the tourism industry could see as much financial gain in the first two weeks of June as they see in the final two weeks of August.

3. Oppose student discipline bills that would limit the duration of student suspensions from school

The Goochland County School Board, like many other school boards across the Commonwealth has established many student-centered alternatives for students that utilize a restorative philosophy versus a punitive philosophy to discipline. The School Board asks that localities continue to have the flexibility to trust school and central office administrative staff to make discipline decisions that will protect and maintain the safety and security of students and staff, while at the same time helping to make future changes to student behavior. Legislation that limits the duration of student suspensions places undue restrictions on professionals to make decisions in the interest of the overall school and school division.

4. Support any Legislation that moves the state closer to fully funding the Standards of Quality (SOQ)

The School Board believes that the cap on support positions nearly 10 years ago has prevented necessary state funding. The School Board believes the state should begin funding critical positions not covered in the Standards of Quality (SOQ), such as reading specialists, math specialists, and elementary assistant principals.

5. Oppose any legislation that requires a redistribution of local dollars when establishing State-Wide virtual schools/programs

The School Board requests that the General Assembly oppose any legislation that requires a redistribution of local dollars when establishing state-wide virtual schools/programs.

Even when considering the bills proposed last year, we would also encourage the General Assembly to require residents to enroll in high quality local virtual schools when the programs are comparable or better than the state program. Local school divisions frequently

have to support these students with their enrollments and process in the course, the state funding is necessary to manage this process; otherwise, local dollars are inherently going to support this state program.

6. Oppose any bill that creates Parental Choice Educational Savings Accounts

The School Board believes that these accounts would be considered unconstitutional under Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of Virginia.

7. Oppose any bill that would allow the Board of Education to establish regional charter school divisions that would be governed by a separate board appointed by the Board of Education.

8. Initiate legislation that would require local school divisions to report both a letter grade and a specific numerical value earned by students on all official transcripts.

Divisions across the Commonwealth struggle with the idea of 10 point grading scales to best serve their students in applying for post-secondary schools. Reporting of numerical grade values removes the need to “normalize” grading scales and provides more exact data for post-secondary applicants.

9. Revise Section 22.1-296.1(A) of the Code of Virginia to allow greater flexibility for the employment of public school employees.

The School Board believes that there should be greater flexibility for employing individuals affected by this legislation, provided that the following criteria have been met: (1) an individual has been pardoned by the Governor and their rights have been restored, (2) their conviction did not involve a crime against children, (3) their conviction was non-violent in nature, and (4) the time between their employment with the school division and their felony conviction was greater than 15 years.

2018 County Policy Positions

- ✓ **Support** amendments to 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.
- ✓ **Support** eliminating or significantly restructuring the Certificate of Public Need (COPN) process which is currently extremely lengthy and costly. The desired outcome of the COPN can be achieved more easily, leaving the medical industry to focus on health care and access rather than battling each other over advances in these areas.
- ✓ **Support** recommendations and efforts resulting from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study of Industrial Residuals & Biosolids outlined in HJ 120 passed by the General Assembly during the 2016 Session.
- ✓ **Oppose** any legislation amending Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation specifically pertaining to regulation of land surveyor photogrammetrists and local geographic information system (GIS) staff.

- ✓ **Oppose** any legislation requiring the recording and keeping of written or audio minutes of a closed meeting of a public body for discussions of delicate topics specifically identified and authorized by Virginia law. Requiring such a record would negate the very purpose for authorizing closed meetings on such sensitive matters.
- ✓ **Oppose** any legislation eliminating the sum sufficiency of the state’s share of funding for private educational day placements for children with disabilities receiving services through the Children’s Services Act (CSA); or any effort to reallocate special education funding through a new formula that would shift costs onto local governments.
- ✓ **Support** Regional County Transportation Priorities – Smart Scale Projects
 - 288 @ Broad Street (Rt. 250) – Intersection Improvements & Signals, North & South
 - I-64 & Ashland Rd (Rt. 623) – Traffic Signal
 - West Creek Pkwy. & Patterson Ave. (Rt. 6) – Traffic Signal
 - Tuckahoe Creek Parkway Bridge – bridge connecting to Ridgefield Parkway (Henrico)
- ✓ **Support** granting counties equal taxing authority to that of cities and towns.
- ✓ **Support** the requirement that bills with a local fiscal impact must be introduced by the first day of the General Assembly session.
- ✓ **Oppose** any financial policies or regulations that harm or impose burdens upon localities.
- ✓ **Support** the full funding of education for localities and public schools.
- ✓ **Support** the prohibition of new unfunded mandates and the implementation of a “Sunset Clause” on existing unfunded mandates imposed upon localities.
- ✓ **Support** any legislation that enhances or strengthens the Commonwealth’s ranking for doing business in Virginia.

2018 County Advocacy Positions

Regional County Transportation Priorities

Goochland County is advocating to move up funding and completion of the County's regional transportation priorities funded through Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) "Smart Scale" process. The three (3) high priority projects are planned for major intersection access points to Route 288/Route 250, I-64, and Route 6.

1. UPC #109315 – Rte. 288/Rte. 250 Interchange
Intersection of NB Route 288 on/off ramps with Broad Street Rd.:
 - i. Install traffic signal
 - ii. Add 2nd lane on NB Route 288 to EB Broad Street Rd. off-ramp, with new traffic signal
 - iii. Construct 2nd WB left-turn lane onto Broad Street Rd.
 - iv. Widen south leg of intersection onto rampProject Cost: \$4,270,000
Start Development: 10/17/16 – Determine Requirements: 9/14/17
Start Delivery: 1/25/21 – Complete Delivery: ????

2. UPC #109313 – I-64 Ramp Signalization at Ashland Road (Rte. 623)
Install 1 Traffic Signal at Route 623 (Ashland Road) for Eastbound on/off ramps
Project Cost: \$766,837
Start Development: 10/03/16 – Determine Requirements: 12/31/19
Start Delivery: 03/21/23 – Complete Delivery: ????

3. UPC #109317 – West Creek Parkway Signalization at Patterson Avenue
Install new traffic signal at the intersection of Route 1250 (West Creek Parkway) and Route 6 (Patterson Ave)
Project Cost: \$869,815
Start Development: 10/17/16 – Determine Requirements: 9/14/17
Start Delivery: 1/25/21 – Complete Delivery: ????

These major intersection access points are highly traveled by citizens from throughout the Richmond Region; heading to and from work, on their way to go shopping, or simply passing through the region. The locations are experiencing traffic accidents on an increasing basis; in the case of the Route 288/Route 250 Interchange, over two dozen accidents have occurred since 2015 in this area alone.

It is imperative that funding for completion of these projects be moved up earlier in the Six-Year Improvement Program.

Approved by the Goochland County Board of Supervisors – November 8, 2017