

112th Congress

Principles for Federal Legislation

Adopted December 7, 2010

BRAC

Principles for BRAC legislation:

- Support the inclusion of sufficient funds to ensure significant fiscal resources to address the enormous planning, infrastructure, and transportation issues raised by the relocation of over 19,000 defense workers to Fort Belvoir, resulting from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendations signed by the President in September 2005. *(111th Congress position)*
- Ensure sufficient funding for the transportation improvements required to implement this Federal plan, and appropriate consultation between the Army and Department of Defense and local governments on planning and land use decisions, which are critical priorities. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support state and local government efforts in securing Federal land required to provide the necessary road improvements and other public facilities required as part of this Federal action. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support inclusion of the GSA warehouse site as part of Fort Belvoir for any additional growth at Fort Belvoir in the future. *(111th Congress position revised)*
- Ensure sufficient funding for other BRAC impacts, including significant increases in students to Fairfax County Public Schools. *(111th Congress position)*

Transportation

Principles for transportation legislation:

- Urge Congress to appropriate the annual portion of the \$1.5 billion in federal funds authorized for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's critical capital needs (\$150 million per year for 10 years). Each of the WMATA signatory jurisdictions has approved the Compact amendments required for WMATA to qualify for these federal funds and the non-federal matches have been identified. *(111th Congress position)*
- Urge Congress to continue to appropriate funding for Phase I of the extension of Metrorail to Washington Dulles International Airport, consistent with the Full Funding Grant Agreement for the project. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support legislation that caps liability for rail passenger accidents to provide additional protection for freight railroads, but only if those railroads are: 1) compelled to offer access to their facilities to public rail passenger services on terms that are fair to all parties; and 2) prohibited from demanding levels of insurance that exceed the cap. *(111th Congress position)*
- There is currently no federal funding agreement for Phase 2 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. Fairfax County will assist the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority in attaining funding for Phase 2. *(New Position)*

Principles for the next Surface Transportation Program Authorization

- Support legislation that standardizes the federal approval process for significant highway and transit projects. *(111th Congress position)*
- The level of Federal investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure, including both maintenance of the existing system and expansion, must increase significantly. *(111th Congress position)*
- The distribution of funding within the Federal Surface Transportation Program must be simplified and the number of funding program streamlined and consolidated. *(111th Congress position)*
- The time required to complete the federal review process of significant new transportation projects must be reduced, and the approval process must be consistent across all modal administrations. *(111th Congress position)*
- Greater decision-making authority for determining how transportation funding is spent should be given to metropolitan areas and local governments. *(111th Congress position)*
- Energy efficiency and environmental protection must be addressed in the development of transportation projects; however, environmental reviews should be conducted within specified timeframes, so that a project's environmental impacts can be identified and adequately addressed so as not to unduly delay project implementation. *(Updates 111th Congress position)*
- Safety must continue to be an important focus of transportation projects. *(111th Congress position)*

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Public Safety – Gangs

Principles for gang legislation:

- Support greater federal efforts to assist localities with gang prevention or intervention programs. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support stronger prevention measures. *(111th Congress position)*

Public Safety – Weapons

Principles for weapons legislation:

- Support efforts to reauthorize the federal assault weapons ban included in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. *(111th Congress position)*

Energy/Climate Change

Principles for Environmental/Energy legislation:

- Support legislation providing funding for state and local governments to address issues related to global climate change, including energy conservation, use of renewable energy sources (including waste to energy), green buildings and vehicles, reduced emissions and greenhouse gases. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support legislation to reduce global warming emissions to 80 percent below current levels by the year 2050, including eliminating barriers to energy alternatives by homeowners, such as prohibitions on the use of solar panels. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support funding and incentives to increase research and development for emerging energy efficient and renewable technologies. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support incentives and innovations that encourage environmental preservation and resource conservation. *(111th Congress position)*

Environment

Principles for Environmental legislation:

- Support incentives and innovations that encourage environmental preservation and resource conservation. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support incentives for open space preservation. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support adequate funding to local governments and achievable timelines for any new federal environmental regulations or mandates, particularly requirements related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. *(111th Congress position revised)*

Homeland Security/Emergency Operations

Principles for homeland security/emergency operations legislation:

- Support greater funding for “high risk” areas such as Northern Virginia and Fairfax County. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support timely delivery of funds and ways to achieve greater flexibility for use of funds, while maintaining strong accountability standards. *(111th Congress position)*

Immigration

Principles for immigration legislation:

- Support stricter federal action to improve the enforcement of federal immigration laws and policies by federal agencies. *(111th Congress position)*
- The Board opposes action that would compromise its ability to deliver local government programs and services that benefit or protect the community as a whole. *(111th Congress position)*
- The Board further opposes legislation that would mandate local governments to enforce federal immigration laws, especially in the area of law enforcement. *(111th Congress position)*

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Elections

Principles for Elections legislation:

- Support security and reliability of elections equipment and results. *(111th Congress position)*
- Oppose costly, unfunded mandates for elections equipment and unrealistic timelines for implementation of new federal mandates. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support sufficient federal funding to assist localities in implementing any new federal mandates for elections equipment, including accessibility requirements. *(111th Congress position)*

Local Taxation Legislation

Principles for Local Taxation legislation:

- Preserve existing local taxing authority. Encroachment upon local authority skews local accountability and hampers efforts to provide for constituent needs in the most cost effective and efficient manner. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support federal legislation to repeal provisions of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act that would require local governments to withhold three percent of their payments to vendors and contractors on behalf of the federal government. *(111th Congress position)*

Telecommunications/Communications

Principles for Telecommunications legislation:

- Oppose any preemption or circumvention of local governments' historical control over land use decisions and oppose any attempt to eliminate local governments' right to charge, on a non-discriminatory basis, fair and reasonable compensation for use of public property. *(111th Congress position)*
- Oppose any reduction or diminution of local government authority to: address consumer needs; regulate consumer services; and negotiate and enforce cable franchises that include provisions such as redlining prohibitions, franchise fees, public, educational, and governmental channels and financial support, customer service provisions, and technical construction standards. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support the allocation of additional 700MHz radio frequency spectrum for public safety. Also support sufficient federal funding to ensure deployment of wireless public safety broadband data communications networks. *(new position)*

Land Use

Principles for Land Use legislation:

- Oppose any diminution of local land use authority, either by further limiting the scope of local regulatory authority or by creating new and more elaborate land use regulatory structures. *(111th Congress position)*
- The County supports the concept that disputes over land use authority are local in character and should be solved at the local level. Further, the County requests that the development community and regional entities discuss any concerns or problems with the County before seeking legislative solutions. *(111th Congress position)*

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Human Services/Health/Education

Principles for Human Services/Education legislation:

- Fully fund the costs of mandates placed on local governments. *(111th Congress position)*
- Oppose efforts to shift costs onto local governments, particularly when imposing requirements that limit local flexibility. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support flexibility and additional resources to carry out federal mandates, such as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). *(111th Congress position)*
- Support elimination of the current “prior use” rule for tax credits on school renovation and reconstruction, which disallows these credits when the building is rehabilitated and used in the same manner as before the rehabilitation. This could provide a tool for rehabilitating aging County schools. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support incentives for affordable housing creation and preservation. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support federal funding initiatives that will advance research, surveillance, reporting, and diagnostics for Lyme disease. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support funding increases which improve access to affordable, quality child care for families with low income, including increases to the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Head Start. *(new position)*
- Support efforts to improve access to affordable immunosuppressant drug coverage for kidney transplant patients. Patients with end stage renal disease are already provided special Medicare coverage, but while Medicare already covers immunosuppressant drugs for transplant patients under age 65, coverage is only for a three year period. *(new position)*
- Support federal funding to the states for adult protective services as well as funding for state long-term care ombudsman programs. *(new position)*

Federal Contracting

Principles for Federal Contracting legislation:

- Support efforts to streamline and increase efficiency and productivity in federal government operations, by maximizing the strengths of both federal contractors and federal government employees. Such efforts to strike this balance should be accomplished in a thoughtful, open process that is not arbitrary in nature. *(111th Congress position)*
- Support the critical partnership that exists between the public and private sectors in the conduct of federal government operations. This is particularly important in Fairfax County, where federal employees and federal contractors each contribute significantly to the local and state economy. *(111th Congress position)*