

Federal Funding & Legislative Principles

113th Congress

Adopted December 4, 2012

PRIORITY PRINCIPLES (see also “*Recommended Strategies for 113th Congress*”)

Overall Federal Funding and Sequestration

Principles for Sequestration legislation:

- Support a balanced approach to federal deficit reduction solutions, acknowledging that federal assistance to state and local governments can help mitigate further layoffs and that federal investments in state and local infrastructure projects helps produce private sector jobs and improve our competitiveness; *(New position)*
- Oppose deficit reduction actions that shift costs to localities, impose unfunded mandates, or pre-empt local programs and taxing authority. *(New position)*
- Support a proactive approach to repositioning the County in anticipation of possible long-term reductions in federal funding, leveraging the County’s location in the National Capital Region, well-educated workforce and strong business climate to attract additional federal facilities, consolidations of personnel and increased government contracting opportunities (including additional BRAC rounds, expansion of cybersecurity contracting and other agency consolidations). *(New position)*
- Support timely resolution of the impending sequester, in order to eliminate the uncertainty that is already taking a toll on the Northern Virginia economy, as federal agencies slow the procurement and contracting process while awaiting the outcome of budget negotiations. *(New position)*

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 21,000 defense workers to Fort Belvoir, resulting from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) *(112th 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. *(112th 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. *(112th Congress position)*
- Ensure sufficient funding for other BRAC impacts, including significant increases in students to Fairfax County Public Schools. *(112th Congress position)*
- Support required coordination with host communities for all relocations (including to leased spaces) for moves of large groups, or for the aggregation of personnel through multiple minor moves, so that proactive planning can occur and the County can be well-positioned to receive additional federal personnel in the future. *(New position)*

Transportation

Principle for Transportation funding:

The level of federal investment in the nation’s transportation infrastructure, including both maintenance of the existing system and expansion, must increase significantly. Investments in transportation are necessary for a strong economy, and in the current climate, could help spur growth. Northern Virginia’s need for transportation solutions for all modes will continue to grow in size and scope, particularly in the immediate future as a result of BRAC. Fairfax County has taken actions to substantially increase local funding for transportation infrastructure and service, but the state and federal governments must also do their part, as future generations will pay the price for the current inaction.

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. *(112th Congress position)*
- Urge Congress to continue to appropriate funding for Phase 1 of the extension of Metrorail to Washington Dulles International Airport, consistent with the Full Funding Grant Agreement for the project. Additionally, urge Congress and the Administration to provide federal financial support for Phase 2 of the project. *(112th Congress position)*

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- 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. (*112th Congress position*)

Principles for the next Surface Transportation Program Authorization:

- Support legislation that standardizes the federal approval process for significant highway and transit projects. (*112th 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. (*112th Congress position*)
- Greater decision-making authority for determining how transportation funding is spent should be given to metropolitan areas and local governments. (*112th Congress position*)
- Safety must continue to be an important focus of transportation projects. (*112th Congress position*)

Social Safety Net

Principle for Social Safety Net funding:

It is the responsibility of government at all levels – federal, state and local – to help Americans who are unable to fully meet their own needs. As a result of current economic hardships, those needs are greater now than ever. Healthy and productive individuals, families, and communities are the foundation of the United States’ present and future security and prosperity, and ensuring this foundation requires a strong partnership among all levels of government to maintain the critical safety net.

In assessing potential federal cuts to the social safety net, the County will consider the significance of the impact, both fiscally to the County and the potential magnitude of the impact on individuals living at subsistence levels, in accordance with the following objectives:

- Support programs that help residents of Fairfax County meet their basic needs, from food insecurity to homeless prevention and affordable housing;
- Support programs that get Americans back to work and support economic development, including job training and child care;
- Support programs and funding streams that provide local flexibility to meet the needs of a changing and challenging economic climate, while avoiding penalties to localities that exhibit prudent fiscal management;
- Support programs that promote school readiness for at-risk children;
- Support programs that protect the health and well-being of vulnerable residents;
- Oppose changes that shift additional responsibilities to localities, weakening the federal/state/local partnership, particularly in a state where financial support for the social safety net tends to be minimal;
- Support adequate federal funding to meet federal mandates, as costly federal mandates must be accompanied by appropriate funding, or at a minimum, adequate flexibility to ensure the success of priority programs.

Principles for Human Services/Education legislation:

- Fully fund costs of mandates and support flexibility and additional resources to carry them out, such as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). (*112th 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. (*112th Congress position*)
- Support incentives for affordable housing creation and preservation. (*112th Congress position*)
- Support federal funding initiatives that will advance research, surveillance, reporting, and diagnostics for Lyme disease. (*112th Congress position*)
- Support funding 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. (*112th Congress 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

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covers immunosuppressant drugs for transplant patients under age 65, coverage is only for a three year period. (112th Congress position)

- Support federal funding to the states for adult protective services as well as funding for state long-term care ombudsman programs. (112th Congress position)

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Relocation

Principles for Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Relocation legislation:

- Support relocation of the FBI headquarters to a site in Fairfax County with close proximity to transit and numerous transportation options, in order to mitigate transportation impacts while encouraging redevelopment and job growth in the County. (New position)
- Support relocation of the FBI to existing federal land within Fairfax County, and oppose actions that remove property from the County's tax rolls. (New position)

CONTINUING PRINCIPLES

Public Safety – Gangs

Principles for Gang legislation:

- Support greater federal efforts to assist localities with gang prevention or intervention programs. (112th Congress position)
- Support stronger prevention measures. (112th 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. (112th 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. (112th 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. (112th Congress position)
- Support funding and incentives to increase research and development for emerging energy efficient and renewable technologies. (112th Congress position)
- Support incentives and innovations that encourage environmental preservation and resource conservation. (112th Congress position)

Environment

Principles for Environmental legislation:

- Support incentives and innovations that encourage environmental preservation and resource conservation. (112th Congress position)
- Support incentives for open space preservation. (112th 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. (112th Congress position revised)

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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. (112th Congress position)
- Support timely delivery of funds and ways to achieve greater flexibility for use of funds, while maintaining strong accountability standards. (112th Congress position)

Immigration

Principles for Immigration legislation:

- Support stricter federal action to improve the enforcement of federal immigration laws and policies by federal agencies. (112th 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. (112th Congress position)
- The Board further opposes legislation that would mandate local governments to enforce federal immigration laws, especially in the area of law enforcement. (112th Congress position)

Elections

Principles for Elections legislation:

- Support security and reliability of elections equipment and results. (112th Congress position)
- Oppose costly, unfunded mandates for elections equipment and unrealistic timelines for implementation of new federal mandates. (112th Congress position)
- Support sufficient federal funding to assist localities in implementing any new federal mandates for elections equipment, including accessibility requirements. (112th 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. (112th 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. (112th 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. (112th 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. (112th 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. (112th Congress 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. (112th 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. (112th Congress position)

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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. (*112th 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. (*112th Congress position*)