

**PRIORITY BUDGET ITEMS FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY
HOUSE AND SENATE MEMBER BUDGET AMENDMENTS
2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

SUPPORT

Elections Administration

Item C-53.80 #2h (Krizek), which was requested by VACo, authorizes \$18 million in state bond proceeds to be used as matching funds to localities to assist with the replacement of voting equipment.

Item 77 #1h (Krizek) provides resources to the Department of Elections to administer the program and direct the department to convene a workgroup of stakeholders representing general registrars, electoral boards, and local governments to develop criteria and guidelines for allocation of funds.

Item 78 #1s (Roem) provides \$8.2 million in FY 2026 for additional staffing in general registrars' offices.

Environment

Item 365 #1s (Stuart)/Item C-53.80 #1h (Bulova) provide \$50 million GF in FY 2026 for deposit to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund to assist the Commonwealth in meeting Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan.

Item 365 #1h (Bulova) provides for a total of \$48.6 million GF in FY 2026 to support wastewater treatment upgrades identified by the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Certainty program. The amendment is for \$31.2 million in FY 2026. The additional funding would represent the most recent available cash flow estimate for projects in the current biennium. (The Governor's introduced budget includes \$17.4 million from the GF for FY 2025.)

Item 96 #2s (Perry)/Item 96 #2h (Bloxom)/Item 96 #3h (Lopez) provide \$2.5 million GF in FY 2026 for deposit in the Forest Sustainability Fund. The fund is used by localities with forest use value assessments to enhance recreation, environmental education, and local forest management.

Item 96 #3s (Marsden) provides an additional \$5 million GF in FY 2025 and \$5 million GF in FY 2026 to be deposited to the Virginia Farmland and Forestland Preservation Fund.

Compensation

Item 60 #4h (Delaney)/Item 60 #2s (Diggs)/Item 60 #3s (Carroll Foy) provide \$15.2 million in FY 2026 to fund sheriffs' deputies in accordance with the statutory staffing standard of one deputy per 1500 people in localities where the sheriff has primary responsibility for law enforcement.

Item 62 #2h (Bulova) provides \$1.5 million in FY 2026 to restore funding for 98 unfunded positions in offices of Directors of Finance.

Item 64 #3h (Ward)/Item 64 #2s (Perry) provide \$25.7 million in FY 2026 for staffing for Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices consistent with new staffing standards developed by the Compensation Board.

Item 64 #5s (McDougle) provides \$28.8 million GF in FY 2026 for Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices. The amount includes \$25.7 million to provide 206 additional Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys, 115 additional paralegals, and 132 administrative assistants in order to fully staff these offices for felony caseloads, based on the Compensation Board staffing standards. It also includes \$3.1 million to provide a five percent state salary increase

for Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys, applied after the three percent salary increase included for all state and state-supported local employees in the FY 2024-2026 Biennium Budget adopted in May 2024.

Early Childhood

Item 125.10 #1h (Bulova)/125.10 #2h (Austin) provide \$160 million in FY 2026 to address several early childhood care and education priorities: \$120 million is provided to meet current and projected parent demand for Child Care Subsidy Program slots, \$10 million is provided to expand public-private cost-sharing pilots through the Mixed Delivery program; and \$30 million is provided for a pilot program to increase the supply of early childhood care and education services through site expansion and capacity building incentive grants.

Health and Human Services

Item 268 #1h (Carr)/Item 268 #2h (Coyner)/Item 268 #3h (Hodges)/Item 268 #1s (Favola)/Item 268 #2s (Deeds) strike the language in the Governor's introduced budget that would cap the state's contribution to the Children's Services Act by stipulating that the rate of state reimbursement to localities for private day educational services for services provided on or after July 1, 2025, may not increase more than 2.5 percent over the rates for such services provided the previous year.

Item 297 #5h (Sickles)/Item 297 #3s (Deeds) provide \$8.7 million in FY 2026 for Community Services Boards (CSBs) to cover the onboarding costs for the additional support coordinators needed for the 3,440 new Developmental Disability waiver slots that have been funded over the biennium. This funding is intended to cover the expenses incurred until a new support coordinator can carry a full caseload and begin billing Medicaid.

Item 297 #2h (Willett)/Item 297 #6s (McPike) provide \$18 million in FY 2026 to fund additional Marcus Alert programs in order to keep implementation on pace for the 2028 statutory deadline, as well as increase support for all Marcus Alert programs from \$600,000 to \$972,000 per year.

Item 315 #3h (Sickles)/Item 315 #1s (Favola) provide \$4.4 million in FY 2026 to cover increased costs for providing current services for the Area Agencies on Aging and the increased demand for home care services and transportation.

Item 297 #4h (Willett)/Item 297 #1s (Deeds) provide \$5.7 and \$5.8 million, respectively, in FY 2026 to address program growth in Virginia's Part C/Early Intervention program, which serves infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Item 271 #1s (Deeds) provides \$4 million in FY 2026 to establish the Earn to Learn Behavioral Health Education Acceleration Program to provide opportunities for students seeking a behavioral health professional career to complete their clinical education while gaining employment experience.

Item 272 #2h (Sewell) adds \$10 million GF in FY 2026 for grants to local governments to update or establish prescription drug box programs. These updates ensure compliance with new standards for secure drug disposal to prevent misuse and environmental harm, in accordance with the latest federal and state regulatory changes to prescription drug box programs.

Item 289 #2h (Tran)/Item 289 #1s (Hashmi) provide \$7.3 million in FY 2025 and 10 positions to fund a state-funded comprehensive health care coverage program for individuals in Virginia who are under 19 years of age, are not covered under a group health plan or health insurance coverage, and but for their immigration status, would be eligible for Medicaid.

Item 334 #2s (Favola) provides \$2.1 million GF in FY 2025 and \$2 million GF in FY 2026, and \$2.1 million NGF in FY 2025 and \$2 million NGF in FY 2026 to transition electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards to chip-enabled cards.

Transportation

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Funding

Item 433 #1h (Sickles)/Item 433 #2s (Boysko) restore \$3.3 million GF in updated operating assistance for WMATA. The Governor's introduced budget provided \$133.57 million in FY 2025 and FY 2026 to address WMATA funding needs, which was an \$11.13 million decrease from the adopted budget, due to updates in the projected subsidy amounts. The amendment updates the amount needed to address the subsidy needs based on further analysis of WMATA's proposed budget.

State Program Funding

Item 433 #3h (Askew)/Item 433 #1s (Locke) provide \$50 million GF in FY 2026 to address a projected shortfall in state mass transit funding.

Item 437 #3h (Cohen) provides \$1 million GF in FY 2026 for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program to incentivize pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, with a particular emphasis on creating pathways to school.

Other

Item 433 #3s (Surovell) provides \$125 million GF in FY 2025 to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to provide a grant to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Fairfax County to complete the construction of roadway improvements and the BRT system along the Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) Corridor in Fairfax County. In June 2024, the Federal Transit Administration approved the project to enter the Engineering Phase of the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program and specified that the project was able to receive up to \$346.7 million in CIG funds. The County had requested \$459.2 million, which has resulted in a projected gap of approximately \$113 million.

Miscellaneous

Item 227 #1h (Carr)/Item 227 #2h (Morefield)/Item 227 #1s (Locke) provide \$2.3 million in FY 2026 to increase state aid to local public libraries. This funding represents the fourth and final installment of a four-year plan to fully fund the state library aid formula by FY 2026.

Item 251 #1s (Aird), requested by VACo and VML, provides one-time funding of \$103 million in FY 2026 to reimburse local governments for the amount of lost revenue attributable to property tax exemptions for disabled veterans or their surviving spouses and the surviving spouses of members of the armed forces who are killed in the line of duty, if more than one percent of such locality's taxable real estate was exempt from taxation. The amendment also includes language that requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to convene a stakeholder group which would be charged with conducting a review of current exemptions, recent trends and an analysis of future growth and developing options to address the ongoing cost to localities.

Item 255.10 #1s (McPike) provides \$42 million in FY 2026 to support **SB 1312** to require the Commonwealth to reimburse 50 percent of lost revenue associated with the property tax exemptions for disabled veterans or their surviving spouses and the surviving spouses of members of the armed forces who are killed in the line of duty in any locality in which at least one percent of real property was exempt from real property taxes in tax year 2022.

Item 394 #3h (Krizek)/Item 394 #8s (Perry) provide \$7.5 million GF in FY 2025 to establish the Unmanned Aircraft Trade and Replace Program, intended to provide grants of up to \$25,000 to replace drones operated by

state and local law enforcement and local first responder agencies that are manufactured by entities domiciled in a country defined as a foreign adversary of the United States.

OPPOSE

Item 125 #5s (Marsden) includes savings of \$100,000 in FY 2026 as a placeholder for the fiscal impact of **SB 1432**, which designates six local juvenile detention centers for closure.

PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

Eminent Domain

Item 444 #1s (Obenshain) provides \$50,000 GF in FY 2026 for the potential fiscal impact of Senate Bill 1158 which makes various changes to provisions governing eminent domain, primarily relating to procedures in condemnation proceedings and the transfer of a defeasible title by certificate. The bill sets forth reasonable costs of discovery in condemnation proceedings and provides that when a condemnor initiates discovery in a condemnation proceeding, such condemnor shall pay all reasonable costs of such discovery. The bill also specifies that, in a condemnation proceeding initiated by an authorized condemnor or the Commissioner of Highways, a certificate transferring a defeasible title shall include certain information describing the property and any rights to the property being taken or damaged. Finally, the bill repeals the requirement that the court refer a matter initiating a condemnation proceeding to a dispute resolution orientation.

Toll Operations

Item 441 #1h (Mundon King) provides \$2.0 million GF in FY 2026 to provide toll relief pursuant to the provisions of House Bill 2368, which caps monthly toll charges for Virginia residents at \$200 per month and exempts TANF recipients from any toll charges.

PROGRAMS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Health and Human Resources

Item 315 #5h (Hodges)/Item 315 #11h (Krizek)/Item 315 #2s (Surovell) provides \$500,000 in FY 2025 and \$2 million in FY 2026 to Fairfax County to support the Washington Area Villages Exchange in creating a pilot program to reduce the public health risk of social isolation among older Virginians by expanding the availability of Villages statewide.

Item 331 #12h (Henson) provides \$400,000 in each year to Fairfax County for Lorton Community Action Center, which provides basic needs and self-sufficiency programs to individuals, including older adults, and families with low income.

Item 331 #3h (Keys-Gamarra) provides \$500,000 in each year to Fairfax County for Cornerstones, an organization that helps individuals build more stable lives by connecting them with vital resources that solve their needs for housing, child care, food, or financial assistance.

Item 331 #5s (McPike) provides \$4 million in FY 2026 to Fairfax and Prince William counties to enhance workforce development programs, support ongoing renovations and operations, and accessibility features, and create new training spaces for members of the immigrant community.

Transportation

Item 151 #5s (Surovell) provides \$350,000 GF in FY 2025 to the Schar School of Public Policy at George Mason University to conduct a study on potential revenue from placing a fee on all parking spaces on privately owned/commercial property, including surface lots and parking structures within the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission Districts and potential revenue from the districts surrounding Metro stations and to help determine methods for establishing a permanent revenue source for WMATA by creating a tax overlay district around every Metro station.

Item 433 #2h (Shin) provides \$1.4 million GF in FY 2026 to establish a 4 square mile microtransit zone in the center of the town of Herndon Virginia.

Item 437 #1h (Henson)/Item 438 #18s (Roem) provides \$750,000 GF in FY 2026 to VDOT to study the needs and capacity for expanded tractor-trailer parking near and along the I-66 and I-95 corridors.

Item 438 #9h (Sullivan) provides \$1.0 million GF FY 2026 to support the building of a noise barrier wall as part of the I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Project near Linganore Drive.