2027

# Draft Legislative Program 2027

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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**Please note that highlighted text reflects a change from the September 1, 2026 Legislative Committee.

# Fairfax County Overview

**Demographic information will be added prior to adoption.**

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# Fairfax County Guiding Principles

| **Fairfax County supports legislation, policies, and appropriations measures that:** |
|---|
| Fix the underlying structural issues with current Kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) funding and provide funding based on actual local costs. Fully fund and implement recommendations from the 2023 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report. |
| Rebalance funding for joint responsibilities such as public safety and the justice system. |
| Ensure Northern Virginia receives its fair share of statewide transportation revenues. |
| Advance opportunities to leverage Commonwealth and local resources to drive business growth, innovation, and economic diversification. |
| Ensure and expand local control and flexibility in key areas such as taxation, housing, land use, and the protection of public health, environment, safety, and welfare. |
| Provide resources that support the most vulnerable in the community. |

| **Fairfax County opposes legislation, policies, and appropriations measures that:** |
|---|
| Reduce funding or shift the cost of shared services to the County from the Commonwealth for essential services, creating additional unfunded mandates. |
| Infringe or roll back local authority and flexibility in controlling policies and procedures governing local land use matters. |
| Attempt to preempt, restrict, or limit local revenue raising authority or adversely impact existing tax authority. |
| Change the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in ways that impose additional burdens on localities and limit flexibility for virtual meetings. |

| **Fairfax County will initiate legislation, policies, and appropriations measures to:** |
|---|
| Provide dedicated and sustainable funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and regional transit needs using state resources. |
| Provide sufficient funding for constitutional offices and state-supported local employees, including tying salaries to local labor index to reflect local cost of living, and bringing Local Director of Finance offices in parity with offices for Commissioners of Revenue and Treasurers. |
| Increase the state portion of K-12 funding and change the Standards of Quality (SOQ) formula to replace the linear-weighted average for teacher salaries with a formula that reflects actual teacher pay and local divisions' cost (JLARC Recommendation 6). |
| Replace the SOQ formula's Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA) with a Virginia cost-of-labor index that accounts for different labor costs across the state (JLARC Recommendation 12). |

# Fairfax County Priorities

*"Protecting and enriching our quality of life for people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities."*

A strong state and local partnership is essential to Virginia's success and the ability of both levels of government to respond to residents' needs. As the form of government closest to the people, local government is best positioned to serve the needs of residents and must have the necessary flexibility to address its unique context.

Fairfax County supports continuing to make the structural changes needed in the current K-12 funding formulas to reflect actual local costs of public education and rebalance the local and state funding responsibilities as detailed in the 2023 General Assembly (GA) study.

Fairfax County supports dedicated, sustainable funding for critical transit systems, including WMATA and the Fairfax Connector, which connect our residents to jobs, schools, and essential services.

Fairfax County supports increased state funding, initiatives, and actions to increase the availability of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing options, particularly in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia. Fairfax County urges the state to work closely with localities on this important topic, as local land use authority is central to any strategy to increase the affordability of housing, allowing localities to craft innovative solutions that are appropriate for their communities.

Fairfax County urges the Commonwealth to partner closely with localities in implementing federal changes to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) while ensuring that program administration and benefit costs are not further shifted to local governments. Successful implementation requires robust state-local coordination, along with direct state investment in training and tools to support front-line local staff and should account for the downstream effects of reduced Medicaid and SNAP access on health care, food insecurity, and the capacity and costs of local safety net services.

Fairfax County supports collective bargaining that includes local budgetary control and implementation flexibility, building on Fairfax County's successful collective bargaining program established in 2021.

Fairfax County supports reforming state tax structures to ensure sustainable revenue streams and provide localities with revenue diversification that reflects a 21st century economy. Virginia's outdated tax structure strains localities' ability to meet their shared funding responsibilities for core services because of the limited options to generate their portion of revenues.

## Initiatives

Expand the ability for localities to extend tax exemptions to Residential Housing Authority-owned properties. Allow localities to grant housing authorities an exemption from local real estate taxes for properties indirectly owned by such housing authorities via amendment to Code of Virginia § 58.1-3651.

Request dedicated state funding to support pedestrian safety efforts within Fairfax County such as the streetlight program; Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs); and crosswalk improvements, especially in school zones.

Support the creation of a state grant for the refurbishment and renewal of manufactured housing parks.

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# Budget Priorities

**Fairfax County supports restoring an appropriate funding partnership with the state to ensure the delivery of critically needed services in communities throughout Virginia. State established standards for locally delivered services must be accompanied by adequate state funding to successfully provide those services and maintain reciprocal accountability for successes and failures.**

To better account for its obligations, the 2026 GA should:

- Increase K-12 funding to rebalance the state-local partnership of funding quality education.
- Maintain dedicated state funding for K-12 education and replace the lost dedicated revenue for transportation resulting from the elimination of the state sales tax on groceries (eliminated effective January 1, 2023).
- Ensure Northern Virginia receives its fair share of statewide revenues, as required by HB 2313 (2013).
- Fully restore regional and local transportation revenues diverted in 2018 to fund WMATA's state of good repair and critical capital.
- Support substantially increasing funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund to $300 million over the biennium without diversion to additional programs as well as increasing the funding cap that each development can request.
- Fully restore HB 599 law enforcement funding and distribute funding to localities with police departments in accordance with current funding formulas.
- Adequately fund Virginia's courts to ensure a well-functioning judicial branch, without placing additional burdens on localities and the judicial system.
- Replace the current state model for funding jails with a model that reflects actual costs.
- Provide additional state funding to support behavioral health care for inmates.
- Support early childhood workforce investments and substantially increase state funding for child care and early childhood education programs, including the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI).
- Support full, uninterrupted funding to implement System Transformation, Excellence and Performance in Virginia (STEP-VA), and take steps to transition to a prospective payment system aligned with the national Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) model.
- Support Medicaid reimbursement rates for behavioral health services that cover the full cost of quality care and include a Northern Virginia differential accounting for the region's higher costs.
- Increase state funding for Medicaid waivers to expand slots and raise reimbursement rates, sustaining progress made in 2024 while keeping pace with the Priority One waitlist and ensuring access to high-quality, community-based care for individuals with developmental disabilities (DD).
- Provide sufficient funding for programs that address multimodal mobility needs, including:
  - Revenue Sharing, a program that leverages state transportation funds by matching local revenues;
  - Construction and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as access to transit, which is vital to moving people while improving energy efficiency;
  - Safety-related roadway projects and programs; and
  - Secondary road maintenance, including a reasonable vegetation maintenance schedule that does not rely on local funding to maintain safety, including clear zone and sight distance requirements.

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# Cultural and Recreational Opportunities

*Fairfax County is a place where all residents, businesses and visitors are aware of and able to participate in quality arts, sports, recreation and culturally enriching activities.*

- Support state incentives that promote donations to park authorities or associated foundations, encourage the preservation of land for public use through the Virginia Land Preservation Tax Credit, and increase funding for park infrastructure development and rehabilitation.

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# Economic Opportunity

*Fairfax County is a place where all people, businesses and places are thriving economically.*

**As a driver of the regional and state economies, Fairfax County depends on strategic reinvestment and a strong partnership with the Commonwealth to sustain growth. Additionally, investments in early childhood programs yield significant benefits, including increased opportunities for employment, higher earnings for families, reduced crime rates, and lower social safety net costs.**

## Business Incentives and Investments

- Fully fund the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund and resources for the Virginia Jobs Investment Program's (VJIP) initiatives.
- Structure the GoVirginia program to invest in quality economic development proposals.
- Support funding for statewide technology, research, and innovation commercialization assistance activities (including mentorship programs, such as ICAP and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) federal grant application assistance.
- Encourage state funding for programs and facilities that enable business growth in all sectors, including quantum computing, space-related sectors, blockchain, and geospatial intelligence.
- Create a state urban redevelopment and site readiness fund to support the transformation of underutilized and obsolete commercial properties into commercial centers and housing.
- Provide funding assistance for the transportation needs of major activity centers to lay the groundwork for economic growth, maintaining transit-oriented and walkable communities and accommodating predicted growth.

## Workforce Development and Support

- Invest in efforts to connect community members, including Medicaid and SNAP beneficiaries, with work, education, or volunteer opportunities that meet community engagement requirements set forth in H.R. 1.
- Support programs that connect work candidates with training programs to meet vocational goals, including displaced federal employees and federally connected contractors.
- Promote innovative employer strategies to attract and retain talent, especially underemployed candidates such as individuals with disabilities.
- Boost state funding for training, career development, supervision, and work-based learning across critical sectors including the trades, behavioral health, child care, community health, medical, and long- term care fields.
- Support programs and incentives that encourage employers to adopt innovative strategies to connect with local talent and expand work-based learning, job training, or career counseling.
- Prioritize investment in training and reskilling that prepares all students and workers for in-demand jobs in the trades and emerging sectors, with specific focus on equipping workers to leverage artificial intelligence (AI).
- Increase state child care funding for subsidy programs, improve and regularly update reimbursement rates for providers to reflect the cost of care, and create other tools to help make child care more affordable and accessible, including continuing the family copayment scale.

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# Effective and Efficient Government

*Fairfax County is a place where all people trust that their government responsibly manages resources, is responsive to their needs, provides exceptional services and equitably represents them.*

**As the government closest to the people, local government representatives should be included on all commissions or bodies established affecting local authority or changing governance, especially those with fiscal and revenue implications.**

## Local Authority

- Support maintaining local land use authority as local decision-making best enables localities, developers, and communities to work together to ensure orderly, balanced growth and development while also allowing for direct public participation in this critical process.
- Maintain Fairfax County's local permitting process for family child care providers serving four or fewer children not residing in the home.
- Oppose further restrictions on, and additional procedural hurdles to, local use of eminent domain.
- Support restoration of local land use authority to determine the appropriate location of wireless telecommunications facilities and set reasonable fees and fair compensation for access to public rights-of-way and government-owned structures, to the extent permitted by federal law.
- Support granting localities additional authority to address the environmental impacts of data centers, without shifting responsibility for regulatory compliance onto localities. Support the Commonwealth establishing statewide and regional minimum standards for data centers regarding environmental, siting, community engagement, local workforce, and cost allocation issues, while granting local authority to develop more stringent standards.
- Expand local authority to allow for local incentives directly to households and businesses for measures that promote clean air, energy efficiency, resilience, new investment in green construction, tree preservation, waste prevention, recycling management, sustainable and active transportation, and related measures that increase sustainability, resilience and energy affordability throughout the Commonwealth.
- Increase local authority involving electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and high-density developments.
- Support localities being granted additional authority to further invasive plant management as well as increase their own minimum tree canopy, tree coverage percentages, and overall tree preservation during the zoning and development process.
- Oppose legislation that authorizes a casino in Fairfax County without any request for such legislation from the Board of Supervisors, without implementation of a statewide Gaming Commission, and without a tax revenue split that substantially benefits Fairfax County as opposed to the Commonwealth. The designation and location of a casino is inherently a major land use decision and General Assembly intervention in Fairfax County's land use processes would undermine decades of community consensus and economic success.

## Elections

- Support legislation promoting equitable and efficient participation in elections through inclusive voting practices such as voting by mail, extended polling hours, and the use of drop boxes.
- Expand flexibility during emergencies to prevent disruptions in election administration.
- Ensure legislation to enhance election security maintains election integrity and avoids inadvertently undermining the exercise of the franchise.

- Increase state investments in voting equipment, systems modernization/security, and election administration, including local electoral board members, registrars, and election officials training.
- Urge state engagement of localities in the new state election system design and implementation.

### Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

- Support legislation that upholds the principles of open government and balances transparency, privacy protections, operational efficiency, and local flexibility.
- Support decreasing onerous technical requirements and increasing flexibility to meet FOIA obligations, accounting for personnel and time constraints at the local level, especially given the effects the rise of AI has had on workloads and requests.
- Support additional local authority to increase flexibility for public bodies to meet and conduct business remotely to ensure that public service is available to a wide array of individuals.

### Taxation

- Support new local authority to utilize tax policy to preserve and produce affordable housing.
- Ensure that any proposals to modify the personal property tax include a sustainable, uncapped replacement revenue stream that supports growth based on accurate data, given this tax is a key revenue source for local governments.
- Oppose further restrictions on local taxing authority and revenues, including mandatory expansion of property tax exemptions.
- Support the state ameliorating the effects of large amounts of tax-exempt property on the local tax base.
- Support state reimbursement to localities with the cost of state-mandated property tax exemptions.

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# Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability

*Fairfax County is a place where all residents facing vulnerability are empowered and supported to live independent lives to their fullest potential.*

**The state-local partnership, balancing state investments and support with local autonomy and flexibility to deliver critical programs and services, is essential to supporting residents facing vulnerability.**

## Children-Focused Services

- Support the state's continued fiscal responsibility to fully fund mandated Children's Services Act services in partnership with localities and oppose changes, including state reimbursement caps, that shift costs to local governments, disrupt the responsibilities and authority assigned to the County, or alter current funding formulas and increase costs to Fairfax County, where the aggregate local match is approximately 46 percent.
- Ensure that service expenditures reflect the needs of each child by keeping service decisions at the local level.
- Increase and ensure sustainable funding and infrastructure for Part C Early Intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, including rate increases that reflect current costs.

## Developmental Disabilities and Medicaid Waivers

- Provide sufficient funding for state-mandated support coordination that reflects the actual cost of administering additional waiver slots.
- Provide the family supports and service flexibility necessary to ensure that individuals receiving waivers can access appropriate community-based services.

## Social Services

- Support continued local autonomy and the state-local partnership in the administration of child welfare, particularly by local departments of social services (LDSS) that have strong processes in place to ensure allegations of child abuse and neglect are appropriately addressed.
- Support increased state funding for home care workers, additional Adult Protective Services (APS) workers and supportive protective services as well as resources for family caregivers.
- Support investments in technology modernization for public assistance benefits, including Medicaid, SNAP, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and child care assistance.

## Supportive and Accessible Communities

- Strengthen and enforce the protections guaranteed by disability rights laws, and expand accessibility to public places and activities, employment opportunities, housing, and transportation services (including transportation network companies and autonomous vehicles).
- Protect the rights of individuals with disabilities to receive services in the most integrated community setting appropriate to their needs and support the high-quality community-based services needed to fulfill those rights and prevent unnecessary and more costly institutionalization.
- Support funding and programs that provide education, and help prevent, stop, and remedy financial scams, especially for vulnerable populations.

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# Environment and Energy

*Fairfax County is a place where all people live in a healthy and sustainable environment.*

**Fairfax County supports efforts to address community-wide greenhouse gas emissions and energy affordability, reduce operational demand for energy, and increase climate resilience through efficiency, conservation, renewable energy, adaptation, education, and other measures.**

## Energy and Climate Change

- Provide incentives to encourage solar energy on existing buildings, sites with existing impervious surface, and brownfields.
- Ensure the fair allocation of interconnection fees between utilities and solar project developers.
- Support state action that balances both environmental goals with grid reliability and consumer rate impacts.
- Support for state income tax incentives and rebates for more efficient or alternative fuel vehicles, like EVs, for businesses and residents, as well as flexibility to determine rebate eligibility in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia.
- Support efforts to reauthorize and fund Virginia's Electric Vehicle Rebate Program, which is set to expire on January 1, 2027.
- Bolster funding for local residential energy efficiency and flood preparedness programs.
- Increase education to property owners and/or purchasers about environmentally sensitive land, including Resource Protection Areas.

## Municipal Solid Waste

- Support legislation expanding local authority to address recycling and waste diversion challenges to meet state standards and environmental goals. Potential solutions include establishing minimum recycling and waste diversion performance and reporting standards for private collection companies as well as multifamily and commercial properties.
- Support legislation defining organic materials, including food waste, as recyclable, in addition to enhancing local authority to strengthen organics diversion programs including source-separation and recycling of food waste or other recyclable and reusable waste streams.
- Support legislation establishing extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs, requiring manufacturers and importers to establish and finance a statewide collection, transportation, and recycling system for certain end-of-life products such as lithium-ion batteries.
- Support legislation granting wastewater authorities the ability to create a regional authority for the purpose of regional biosolids management.

## Water Quality Funding

- Support budget action providing adequate state appropriations to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) to ensure full and timely payments under point source upgrade contracts with local governments. Also continue to support increased funding for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF).
- Provide additional state assistance for urban stormwater needs to meet federal Chesapeake Bay requirements without shifting costs to localities, by meeting the mounting costs for water quality improvements for sewage treatment plants, urban stormwater, combined sewer overflows, and sanitary sewer overflows.

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- Urge the state to partner with localities to meet federal mandates around increased local stream Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) which requires the County to complete additional water quality projects.

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# Healthy Communities

*Fairfax County is a place where all people can attain their highest level of health and well-being.*

**Preserving access to affordable, timely, high-quality health services and coverage supports public safety and community health, enabling residents, especially low-income and underserved Virginians, to reach their full health potential.**

## Access to Health Care

- Allocate increased funding to public health and safety net providers (e.g., public health clinics, federally qualified health centers and free and reduced cost clinics) to ensure access to preventive and primary care and alleviate pressure on hospitals and emergency departments.
- Ensure all residents have equitable access to affordable health services, including medications, behavioral health, dental care, vision care, and specialty care.
- Support delivery of quality school health services, including by supporting expanded state investment in resources and preventive services.

## Behavioral Health Crisis Continuum

- Fully fund state-mandated behavioral health services.
- Allocate additional and ongoing funding for a full continuum of community-based crisis and specialized services to meet growing demand while providing alternatives to hospitalization and incarceration. Services such as crisis stabilization units, crisis receiving centers, mobile crisis and co-responder teams, early prevention and treatment programs, peer-led wellness stay programs, reentry/discharge services, and other supports tailored for individuals with developmental disabilities help alleviate pressure on state hospitals, emergency departments, and jails.

## Food Security

- Strengthen the local food system to ensure residents experience food security and can access healthy choices.
- Support flexibility in service delivery for WIC, including permanent hybrid WIC services.
- Support state funding for no-cost school meals for all public school students to ensure access to a healthy breakfast and lunch regardless of a family's ability to pay.

## Substance Use Disorder

- Provide additional and sustained state funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery services in Northern Virginia, including detoxification, medication assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder, intensive outpatient, recovery services, and residential programs to increase community capacity, including for youth-focused services.
- Provide flexibility with state funding to allow access to prevention, treatment, and recovery programs regardless of drug type, while also expanding treatment for co-occurring disorders and wraparound supports like housing and transportation.
- Increase the County's cigarette taxing authority to prevent future dependence, and expand this authority to include e-cigarettes, vape products, and other tobacco and nicotine products (not including nicotine replacement therapies approved for cessation).

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# Housing and Neighborhood Livability

*Fairfax County is a place where all people live in communities that foster safe, enjoyable and affordable living experiences.*

**Local land use authority is central to meeting the state and County's housing and development objectives as these solutions require the flexibility and agility local governments have. Local land use authority must be preserved, and the GA must avoid one-size-fits-all mandates that eliminate or reduce local flexibility.**

## Local Authority in Zoning and Development

- Preserve local authority to manage the development review process with flexibility to address challenges such as the need for housing and the impacts of the changing office market in a manner that is responsive to local needs and situations.
- Support the study of the interplay between state and local bodies in the development process, especially as it relates to transportation and infrastructure needs.
- Preserve local authority to accept cash and in-kind proffers from developers.
- Support state funding programs that incentivize development and make homeownership and affordable rentals accessible to more moderate- and low-income residents.

## Supporting Vulnerable Populations

- Increase state funding and actions to prevent homelessness, preserve and increase the availability of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing, and strengthen tenant protections across generations, including for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Support the creation of a state tax credit equivalent to the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, a proven method of increasing homeownership.
- Incentivize local investment by providing matching dollars to localities that specifically allocate local dollars for affordable housing development.
- Increase funding for permanent supportive housing units, rental assistance programs, operating expenses, and wraparound behavioral health services to ensure individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorder, and developmental disabilities are successful in housing.
- Enhance protections for residents of manufactured housing, including more state financial assistance with relocations, replacements, and rehabilitation efforts.

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# Lifelong Education and Learning

*Fairfax County is a place where all residents at every stage of life are taking advantage of inclusive, responsive, and accessible learning opportunities that enable them to grow, prosper and thrive.*

**Public education funding in the Commonwealth is enshrined in the Virginia Constitution as a joint responsibility of both state and local governments. It is essential that the state fully and appropriately meets its Constitutional responsibility to adequately fund K-12 education. The GA must continue building on the success of previous GA sessions to implement structural changes to the SOQ formula and ensure the necessary funding for K-12. Additionally, access to high-quality early childhood environments helps children be better prepared for success in both school and life.**

## K-12 Funding – Joint Position with the Fairfax County School Board

- Recognize cost-of-living variations throughout the Commonwealth in state funding formulas, particularly in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia, while ensuring that the local ability to pay is fairly and equitably represented.
- Increase state funding support for school divisions with high numbers or concentrations of English learners, students living in economically disadvantaged households, and students receiving special education and mental health services.
- Increase state resources for early childhood education programs, helping young children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed, which is a proven long-term economic strategy.
- Oppose changes that disproportionately target or affect Northern Virginia, including policies which impose unfunded mandates on localities, and policies which divert K-12 funding away from local public schools and toward non-public options.

## School and Life Readiness

- Support continued increases in state funding, data collection and reporting, and programs to strengthen the early childhood system, which includes quality early learning, early childhood workforce, family support and maternal and child health.
- Increase operational flexibility for early childhood education programs, including the provision of VPI services in community early childhood programs like centers and family child care homes, to address capacity challenges, eliminate barriers, and allow localities to expand these critical programs.

## Libraries

- Support continued increases in state aid to public libraries to ensure libraries can continue to provide communities with critical services such as student homework support, research assistance, and public internet access.
- Support reducing barriers to libraries acquiring eMaterials under reasonable terms and costs.
- Uphold intellectual freedom and professional standards of librarianship.

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# Mobility and Transportation

*Fairfax County is a place where all residents, businesses, visitors and goods can move efficiently, affordably and safely throughout the county and beyond via our well-designed and maintained network of roads, sidewalks, trails and transit options.*

## Regional Transportation Funding

- Support continued partnership with the Commonwealth and regional and local partners to ensure dedicated, sustainable funding for critical transit systems in the region, such as the Fairfax Connector and Virginia Railway Express (VRE).
- Support sustained collaboration to put and keep WMATA on sound financial footing without diverting resources from other transportation needs.
- Provide state funding for transportation improvements that provide benefits beyond Northern Virginia such as projects related to possible relocations of federal facilities and projects that create additional capacity across the Potomac River to alleviate congestion and ensure the efficient movement of people and goods throughout the region.

## Transportation Safety and Coordination

- Support increased coordination between localities and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) within the process for considering speed limits in all areas of the County, especially school zones.
- Support additional flexibility within the VDOT project approval processes and design standards to be responsive to the County's specific needs.
- Support simplifying the process for placing stop signs, crosswalks, rapid flashing beacons, and signage to enhance pedestrian, bicyclist and micromobility safety.
- Support legislation to improve access to safe active transportation options such as sidewalks and bike paths, especially as they provide access to transit.
- Support funding for construction and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and safety-related roadway projects.

## Secondary Road Devolution

- Oppose any legislation that would require the transfer of secondary road construction and maintenance responsibilities to counties or would create a moratorium on the transfer of newly constructed secondary roads to VDOT for the purposes of ongoing maintenance, especially if these responsibilities do not include corresponding revenue.

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# Safety and Security

*Fairfax County is a place where all people feel safe at home, school, work, and in the community.*

## Courts

- Support reevaluating the judgeships and state funding for each court for both quantity and qualitative factors of filed cases, including interpreters, complexity of litigation type, specialty dockets, increases in population and commercial development, and cost of living.
- Support the adoption of a new funding formula for Commonwealth's attorneys' offices, as well as additional funding for Commonwealth's attorneys' offices to prosecute misdemeanors.
- Provide sufficient positions, technology, and funding to localities to streamline the process for expungements and record sealings of some criminal records, including those necessary for the implementation of the 2021 legislation such as certain low-level marijuana-related offenses.

## Detention and Jails

- Replace the current state model for funding jails with a percentage model that reflects actual costs to appropriately account for the state's responsibilities.
- Support a more robust state-local partnership in funding local jails, to include a requirement that the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) accepts state-responsible inmates into the state correctional system unless they are participating in a local program of rehabilitation.
- Oppose legislation mandating consolidation of local juvenile detention facilities without a framework that defines state fiscal responsibility and mitigates impacts on youth and families.

## Safe Communities

- Strengthen local authorities to allow localities to enact their own gun safety policies, including banning pneumatic guns on school grounds, with an exemption for school-sponsored activities.
- Sustain local authority on the use of technology to advance pedestrian and public safety with appropriate guardrails and transparency.
- Expand local law enforcement authority to employ unmanned aircraft systems (drones) for non-search deployments, in accordance with existing exceptions, during active 911 calls to enhance response times, stewardship of resources, and officer and public safety.
- Support efforts to modernize and diversify funding models for 911 services to account for technological advancements, dispatch operations, and staff recruitment and retention challenges. Wireless E-911 surcharge revenues collected in Virginia must be protected and used exclusively to support the Commonwealth's 9-1-1 system.
- Support state funding for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) RapBack program to ensure all localities and school divisions have full access to this essential public safety service.

## Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Strengthen legislative protections and resources for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking, including modernization of stalking laws to fully address the range of harm caused by stalking and technology-facilitated abuse.
- Support evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally competent education and rehabilitation programs that aim to break the cycle of violence and increase accountability for individuals who cause harm.
- Strengthen family abuse protective orders (POs) by requiring respondents to immediately surrender firearms to law enforcement, expanding firearm possession prohibitions to include non-

family abuse PO respondents, bolstering enforcement measures, and granting judges greater discretion to extend or lengthen the duration of POs.

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# Federal Funding Priorities

*Fairfax County continues to support federal investments in essential core services and programs. Several of these issues call for consistent communication at the state and federal levels of government.*

## Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending Projects

- Maintain the process of earmarking funds for local projects in annual appropriations bills.

## Economic Development

- Support SBIR, STTR, and other funding for economic development initiatives as well as research and development in science, defense, biomedicine, space exploration, and emerging technologies.

## Education

- Support full federal education funding for mandates such as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA).

## Elections

- Support ongoing federal funding to help states and localities implement new federal mandates for election equipment and infrastructure, including Help America Vote Act funds and Election Security Grants.

## Environment, National Parks, and Scenic Parkways

- Support funding that promotes environmental preservation, enhancement, and resource conservation, including parkland, wetland, forest, and open space.
- Fund additional safety improvements on the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

## Federal Facilities/Fort Belvoir

- Support legislation that addresses infrastructure, transportation, workforce, housing and related needs, and ensure that unspent, available revenue from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation can be used to enhance community and mitigate impacts on the Route 1 corridor.

## Health and Human Services

- Oppose efforts to shift fiscal responsibilities for Medicaid and safety net programs (like SNAP) to localities without federal or state support.
- Increase funding for health and human services programs, including Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, child care and early childhood education, foster care, and behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment, that help residents meet basic needs, expand the social safety net, and advance and protect public health while ensuring affordable access to quality services.

## Housing

- Increase funding to expand the availability of affordable housing and meet a wide range of community needs, including through the Community Development Block Grant program, Housing Choice Vouchers, Homelessness Assistance Grants (Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants), and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

## Libraries

- Increase federal aid to state library agencies and local public libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

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### Public Safety, Homeland Security, and Emergency Operations

- Provide the needed funding for federal-local partnership services such as the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne/JAG), State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), COPS Hiring Grant Program, Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act grant program, and E-911 implementation.
- Increase, or at a minimum maintain, funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant program as well as strengthen funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

### Transportation Funding

- Increase funding for public transit modernization and safety.
- Maintain guaranteed funding in Capital Investment Grants, Buses, and Bus Facilities, State of Good Repair, and other programs.
- Support federal funding, including through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), for aircraft noise mitigation strategies such as residential noise insulation.

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