

## **DRAFT RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE 117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

Fairfax County has long maintained a strong partnership with the federal government, as the home to numerous federal agencies, employees, and contractors. According to **USA Spending**, federal government contracts performed in Fairfax County reached **\$29.4 billion** in FY **2020**. Thirty companies on *Washington Technology* magazine's 2020 list of the 100 largest government contractors in the nation have US headquarters in Fairfax County, and 78 of the top 100 have offices in the County. With a vibrant and diverse population and economy, Fairfax County is truly the federal government's partner, fundamentally important to the functioning of the federal government. Enhancing that critical partnership in a variety of areas is a top County priority.

### **FEDERAL BUDGET**

#### **Federal Funding**

**Support a balanced approach to future federal deficit reduction solutions and a proactive approach to repositioning the County in anticipation of possible long-term changes in federal funding. Also support additional federal relief funding to address the current COVID-19 pandemic.**

Fairfax County recognizes that the federal government continues to face fiscal challenges, and has anticipated a certain amount of reprioritization of federal spending resulting from a lengthy national recession. However, the unprecedented economic and fiscal impacts of the current COVID-19 global pandemic **have required** broad and long-lasting federal assistance for state and local governments to help mitigate these effects, from dealing with the health implications of the virus, to the challenges of prolonged distance learning in public schools, to the implications for businesses and the local economy, among others. **Sustained federal investments in many of these programs and services continue to be necessary, as all levels of government recover.**

Congress **passed** economic relief **packages** to address the pandemic, **including** the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. No. 116-136) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (P.L. No. 117-2). **Fairfax County received over \$311 million in direct aid through the CARES Act and ARPA's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund (CSLFRF), and approximately \$111 million in additional funding is expected to be received in the near future. These funds have helped the County respond to the public health emergency and manage its economic impacts – this includes \$22 million to County non-profit partners to help support basic needs like food and rental assistance, over \$50 million to the Fairfax Relief Initiative to Support Employers (RISE) grant program (which supports the County's small businesses and non-profits), and \$25 million allocated to the Fairfax County PIVOT recovery grant program to strategically support the most economically impacted sectors and help small businesses recover. It is critical that localities have as much flexibility as possible in using federal pandemic-related funding, allowing local governments to respond to the challenges in their individual communities in a timely manner, particularly as the pandemic remains unpredictable and needs evolve over time.**

As Congress finalizes federal spending decisions for FY **2022** (the federal government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution through December **3, 2021**), it is essential to avoid significant reductions to high-priority programs affecting the lives of Fairfax County residents. In general, the

County opposes federal funding initiatives that shift costs to localities, impose unfunded mandates, or preempt local programs and taxing authority, particularly because revenue options for localities in Virginia are extremely limited. The impacts of the 2017 federal tax cuts affected individuals in a variety of ways due to personal circumstances and financial decisions; however, the inclusion of a \$10,000 cap on taxpayers' ability to deduct state and local taxes from their federally taxable income raised concerns among state and local governments, as those revenues support a variety of services, including funding for education, public safety, transportation, infrastructure, and human services. Given the significant appreciation in home values in Fairfax County, the \$10,000 limit on the SALT deduction for federal income taxes will likely pose a substantial hardship for many families, and the federal government should consider eliminating or substantially increasing the SALT cap.

In 2021, Congress elected to return to the practice of providing direct funding for specific projects after nearly a decade-long ban, now called "community funding projects." This process is a fluid one, and parameters between the House and Senate differ. As a result, it is important for the County to maintain flexibility in submitting potential projects for federal funding, as funding opportunities may present themselves quickly, with limited response time, and with very specific federal requirements. Such County projects should be previously approved by the Board, required for the County to comply with federal or state mandates, or to carry out Board priorities. Projects must also meet all federal requirements for individual funding accounts, including the amount of funding available, types of projects eligible, project readiness, and requirements for community support of projects, among other specific requirements. Project requests incorporate the guidance from Congressional offices to maximize the competitiveness of each project.

A close working relationship between the County and the federal government continues to be essential. The County supports timely federal budget decisions, to eliminate uncertainty that is detrimental to the Northern Virginia economy. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

## TRANSPORTATION

### Transportation Funding

**Support increased federal investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure, including maintenance and expansion of the existing system, programs that expand non-motorized travel choices (such as Transportation Alternatives), and language included in the current authorization act giving priority to highway transportation funding for evacuation routes surrounding military facilities. As Congress implements a new surface transportation authorization, support greater coordination and decision-making authority for metropolitan areas and local governments in determining how transportation funding is spent. Efforts to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic should also include an infrastructure component, which will help to provide long-needed infrastructure improvements while creating new workforce opportunities in the region and across the nation.**

In FY 2021, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) had an overall funding level of \$87.5 billion, with a discretionary funding level of \$25.3 billion and \$62.2 billion in obligation limitations. The President's FY 2022 budget proposed an increase for USDOT, at an overall funding level of \$87.8 billion (a \$400 million increase from the FY 2021 enacted level) and a discretionary funding level of \$25.7 billion (a \$400 million increase from the FY 2021 enacted level). Congress has not yet completed the FY 2022 appropriations bill for USDOT; however, the House bill contains higher funding levels than were included

in the President's FY 2022 budget. The House's and Senate's FY 2022 Transportation/Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) appropriations bills provide total USDOT funding of \$106.5 billion and \$91.2 billion, respectively, in budgetary resources.

Investments in transportation are necessary for a strong economy and help spur growth. These investments not only make necessary improvements to regional and national infrastructure, but also create jobs – both during the construction of the facilities, as well as through the access they provide to other employment opportunities. Northern Virginia's need for transportation solutions for all modes will continue to grow in size and scope. This includes the need for bicycle and pedestrian facilities that help improve travel choices while providing public health benefits, as well as other efforts to address "last-mile" connections to home and work. Fairfax County has taken actions to substantially increase local funding for transportation infrastructure and service. The Commonwealth has also taken important steps forward, and the federal government must also do its part. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes a five-year surface transportation bill that includes additional funding for many programs vital to the County and the Commonwealth, and funding must be provided in accordance with those authorized levels. Fairfax County opposes any efforts to reduce transportation funding from the levels authorized in the IIJA, as well as efforts to eliminate programs essential for the County. The IIJA authorizes and provides upfront supplemental appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2026 for several new programs which support local transportation-related projects, including: \$5 billion for the Safe Streets and Roads for All competitive grant program, supporting local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets; and \$500 million for the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant program, conducting demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety (including autonomous vehicles and smart grids to support electric vehicles). Safety must also continue to be an important focus of transportation projects.

- **Support dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), to ensure the success of this critical transit system.** Hailed as "America's subway," Metrorail is vital to the transportation networks and economic growth of Northern Virginia and the DC region, and is fundamental to the functioning of the federal government, carrying thousands of federal workers to their posts every day. The County supports WMATA's efforts to enhance the safety and security of the system and its riders through adequate funding and oversight to ensure the viability of this essential transit system.

In Virginia, local jurisdictions are responsible for providing substantial funding for WMATA (Fairfax County provides approximately \$95 million each year in local and regional funding for operating and capital costs, and transfers approximately \$100 million in state aid annually). Until recently, WMATA was the only major transit provider in the country without a permanent, dedicated revenue source for a significant part of its revenue base – the vast majority of the \$2.2 billion operating and \$2.6 billion capital budgets derived from passenger fares and contributions by member jurisdictions, though the additional assistance provided by the federal government to assist during the COVID-19 pandemic has been vital in continuing service over the past two years. Virginia, Maryland, and DC recently took a major step forward by providing \$500 million annually for state of good repair needs, as well as requiring governance reforms to enhance the safety, security, and efficiency of the system. The County and the region are implementing the governance reforms, and several changes have already been made (it is important to note that

Virginia's legislation addressed WMATA funding needs at the expense of other significant projects throughout the region, by diverting \$102 million per year in existing funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and localities to WMATA – recent legislative action restored approximately \$63.5 million annually, but substantially more funding is necessary to address the diversion). In 2009, the federal government established a precedent for linking WMATA Board representation and financial investments in the system (which was then followed by the Commonwealth in 2011), and upholding that precedent requires local jurisdictions to remain active participants on the WMATA Board as long as current funding patterns are maintained.

While local, regional, and state efforts to address capital needs and state of good repair are ongoing, sufficient federal support, including the recent reauthorization of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) annual appropriation (\$150 million per year, which is matched by the WMATA jurisdictions) and additional federal capital support, remains necessary. Fairfax County's Congressional delegation demonstrated its continued strong support for federal WMATA funding through the introduction of legislation and inclusion of funding authorization within the IJA. The IJA authorizes a total of \$1.35 billion from FY 2022 through FY 2030 (or \$150 million annually) for WMATA, while requiring changes to its Office of Inspector General, including independent hiring and budget authority. The House's and Senate's FY 2022 T-HUD spending bills each include \$150 million in funding for the annual PRIIA allocation for WMATA, the same as the FY 2021 enacted level and the President's FY 2022 budget request. (*Updates and reaffirms previous position.*)

- **Support additional COVID-19 relief funding for transit agencies in any future COVID-19 or related relief packages. Also support flexibility in the allowable uses of all pandemic-related relief funds, including those that address transportation infrastructure impacts.** In addition to long-standing needs, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted transit in the National Capital Region and throughout the nation, with many transit systems seeing a significant reduction in transit ridership and farebox revenues. While ridership has begun to increase for some systems, it is still far lower than prior to the pandemic. However, transit remains a vital component of the region's transportation system, ensuring that essential federal and private sector employees are able to commute to work, while serving as a lifeline for those who rely on transit services to accomplish essential daily tasks. The federal aid included in the CARES Act provided WMATA, the Fairfax Connector, Virginia Railway Express, and other transit systems short-term financial relief – this has been vital to their continued operations. However, the continued shortfalls in ridership and fare revenue present additional financial and operating challenges. Additionally, the federal government has provided substantial funding related to the effects of the current pandemic, including funding related to infrastructure and transit – if additional federal funding is provided, it is critical that such funding include needed flexibility. (*Updates and reaffirms previous position.*)
- **Support continued federal investment in the Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grant program.** This program provides competitive grant funding for major transit capital investments, including rapid rail, light rail, bus rapid transit (BRT), and commuter rail. This funding is critical for transit projects that are developed by local communities, such as the planned Richmond Highway and Leesburg Pike BRT projects. The program (which includes funding for New Starts projects) is authorized at \$2.3 billion annually. In FY 2021, the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program was funded at over \$2 billion. The President's FY 2022 budget requested funding for

CIG at \$2.47 billion, while the House's and Senate's FY 2022 T-HUD spending bills provide \$2.47 billion and \$2.25 billion respectively. Additionally, the IJA authorizes \$15 billion for Capital Investment Grants for FY 2022 to FY 2026, and provides \$8 billion in upfront supplemental appropriations. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Support full funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) formula program.** This program provides funds for state and local governments to improve air quality in transit-intensive areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter (“nonattainment areas”); or, maintain standards in areas where there is a risk of nonattainment, due to high transportation activity (“maintenance areas”). These funds are distributed to each state on a formula basis and are awarded to projects through metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). The FAST Act authorized \$2.45 billion for FY 2019 and \$2.5 billion for FY 2020, while the IJA increases funding to \$13.2 billion for FY 2022 to FY 2026 (\$2.64 billion annually). Additionally, the authorization levels for CMAQ have been increased in the IJA – support for CMAQ funding is a long-standing County priority. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- **Support full funding for transportation discretionary grant programs, including the National Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Program (previously known as Infrastructure for Rebuilding America, or INFRA and FASTLANE), and Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE (previously known as BUILD and TIGER).** Both grant programs provide important funding opportunities for critical transportation projects. The County submitted an INFRA application in March 2020, requesting \$80 million for the Richmond Highway Widening project from Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to Sherwood Hall Lane. In July, DOT announced 24 INFRA awards in 18 states, none of which are located in Virginia. Similarly, the County submitted a RAISE grant application for the Richmond Highway BRT project in July 2021. The application was not awarded, and again, there were no capital projects awarded in Virginia. In FY 2021, RAISE was funded at \$1 billion. RAISE is not authorized, but is funded annually, through additional appropriations in the recently-passed IJA. Specifically, the IJA provides \$12.5 billion in supplemental appropriations for RAISE grants from FY 2022 to FY 2026 (or \$2.5 billion annually), with \$5 billion for multimodal projects of national or regional significance and \$7.5 billion for projects with significant local or regional effects. It may be beneficial to streamline these programs in the future, and to give greater consideration to congestion and mobility issues in the award processes. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- **Support full funding for the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program.** TIFIA provides credit assistance for qualified projects of regional and national significance, seeking to leverage federal funds by attracting substantial private and other non-federal investment in vital improvements to the nation's surface transportation system. The FAST Act authorized TIFIA for \$300 million per year in FY 2019 and FY 2020, expanded loan eligibility to include transit-oriented development (TOD) projects, and lowered the minimum anticipated project cost to qualify from \$50 million to \$10 million for TOD and from \$50 million to \$15 million for Intelligent Transportation System projects, retaining a \$50 million threshold for all other eligible surface transportation projects. The FY 2021 Continuing Appropriations Act extended the authorization for TIFIA (and all FAST Act programs) at FY 2020 levels through September 30, 2021, and two subsequent short-term authorizations extended it through December

3, 2021. The IIJA provides \$1.25 billion in guaranteed contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund from FY 2022 to FY 2026 for the TIFIA program. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Support funding and policies that enhance TOD options for local governments.** Fairfax County is considering various options for funding infrastructure to support TOD. The County was one of 16 organizations selected to receive funding through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) TOD Planning Pilot Program in 2016. TOD grants can play a significant role in several areas in Fairfax County, including Tysons, Springfield, Seven Corners, and Reston. The enacted FY 2021 T-HUD spending bill provided over \$10 million for the TOD Planning Pilot Program. The House's FY 2022 T-HUD spending bill provides \$40 million for planning, preparation, or design of projects emphasizing transit, transit-oriented development, and multimodal projects; however, the Senate's FY 2022 T-HUD spending bill does not provide any funding for this program. The IIJA does not authorize or provide any additional appropriations for this program either. The County supports expanding its funding partnership with the federal government for TOD to ensure continuation of the region's economic vitality. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

## ENERGY

### Climate Change

**Support innovative approaches to address global climate change, including incentives to increase research and development for emerging energy-efficient and renewable technologies, and carbon pricing to incentivize market forces to decrease the use of fossil fuels. Also support federal funding for state and local governments to address issues related to global climate change, including the identification of climate risks and vulnerabilities, the development of adaptation and resilience strategies, energy conservation, use of renewable energy sources (including waste to energy), green buildings and vehicles, preservation of parkland and wetlands, habitat creation, carbon sequestration, and reduced emissions and greenhouse gases.**

For decades, Fairfax County has pursued initiatives to combat climate change. The County is currently accelerating and increasing local efforts through the implementation of a Carbon Neutral Counties Declaration, as well as implementing goals, strategies, and actions included in the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), accepted in 2021. Complementing CECAP is Resilient Fairfax, an initiative which will encompass the development of a comprehensive Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan for the County and the community as well as the implementation of strategies to reduce risk to County residents, businesses, and infrastructure. The federal government must also do its part by adopting a more aggressive strategy to address climate change, along with innovative policies and strategies, including carbon pricing, clean energy mandates, investments in green infrastructure and services, and strategies for preservation of forest and wetlands. This strategy should consider negative impacts on vulnerable populations and include community involvement and public education. Also, support funding and incentives to increase research and development for emerging energy-efficient and renewable technologies, including extending the Solar Tax Credit (also known as an Investment Tax Credit) for both commercial and residential projects (as of 2020, the Solar Tax Credit for residential projects is 26 percent, but it will decrease to 22 percent in 2023 and will be eliminated in 2024). The Solar Tax Credit for commercial projects is 22 percent, decreasing to 10 percent in 2022. The County supports efforts to amend the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule to conform or expand upon

the current California vehicle emissions standards, which will enhance state and local efforts to reduce emissions and promote clean air, aligning with President Biden’s recent initiative on robust new fuel economy standards. Finally, the County supports proposals to incentivize the expansion of renewable energy sources and zero-emission vehicle infrastructure currently under consideration in the House. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

## ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION

### **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization**

**Oppose further changes to the perimeter and slot rules for Reagan National Airport to protect the balance between Washington Dulles International and Reagan National Airports and support efforts to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on Fairfax County residents.**

Federal law limits flights at Reagan National Airport to ensure balanced capacity between Washington Dulles International Airport and Reagan National. Previous FAA reauthorization bills (2012, 2011, and 2003) have given Reagan National more permitted slots (allowable takeoffs and landings per hour) and more non-stop flights beyond 1,250 miles (perimeter rule) to the detriment of Washington Dulles International. However, the five-year FAA reauthorization bill enacted in 2018 makes no additional changes to the perimeter and slot rules. The interconnectedness of Virginia’s aviation system makes Dulles imperative to the continued success of airports around the Commonwealth, and air expansion at Dulles is a major economic driving force in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. As a result, the region, the Commonwealth, and the federal government have made significant investments in transportation projects to further spur the airport’s growth, including the Metrorail Silver Line extension and improvements to Route 28 that will provide greater accessibility to Dulles.

Further, the implementation of the federal Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen, which is an upgrade to the nation’s air traffic control system and is designed to manage more air traffic with greater efficiency) has resulted in flight paths concentrated over certain communities. In particular, the concentration of flight paths for arrivals and departures to the south of Reagan National Airport has resulted in a significant increase in noise over residential areas in the County along those flight paths. The FAA reauthorization bill requires the FAA to study the potential health impacts of overflight noise, consider the feasibility of amending current procedures for noise sensitive communities, and review NextGen community involvement practices. In the 116th Congress, several bills were introduced to combat air traffic noise, in conjunction with the requirements in the 2018 FAA reauthorization bill – though none of those bills were passed by Congress, it seems likely that similar bills will be reintroduced in the 117th Congress. In early 2021, the FAA released a noise survey, the Neighborhood Environmental Survey, which noted a substantial increase in the percentage of people who are highly annoyed by aircraft noise over the entire range of aircraft noise levels considered, including at lower noise levels. Because the survey used lagging data, the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus, including Congressman Don Beyer (VA), sent a letter to the FAA expressing concerns over the survey’s outdated noise metrics, which do not accurately reflect the level of disruption caused by aircraft noise. The FAA’s response indicated the agency is taking steps to begin a policy review to advance the scientific understanding of noise impacts. It also indicated it would continue a community engagement strategy to discuss the management of airspace with affected communities, as well as working with airports, airlines, and local elected officials on strategies to promote transparency in resolving community concerns. The General Accountability Office (GAO) also released a report on September 28, 2021, titled “Aircraft Noise: FAA Could Improve Outreach through Enhanced Noise Metrics, Communication, and Support to Communities.” The GAO

noted that the FAA combines the intensity and duration of noise, and the number of flights overhead on an average day, to quantify the noise at locations under a new flight path. The GAO found that this approach does not provide a clear view of what communities may experience and recommended that the FAA supplement its analysis and provide more information to the public about potential flight noise. The County supports efforts to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on Fairfax County residents by modifying flight paths south of Reagan National to keep aircraft more centered over the Potomac River, rather than over-populated areas.

Finally, the 2018 FAA reauthorization bill includes language addressing the regulation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) by directing the Comptroller General of the US to study the potential role of local governments in UAS regulations. Increased local government involvement in the development and implementation of UAS policy has been a priority of the National Association of Counties (NACo). In September 2020, the GAO released its report on this issue, stating that, “Although DOT officials told us they recognize that state, local, and tribal governments have legitimate interests and constitutionally reserved rights to protect the property, privacy, and security of their citizens, the officials expressed concern with bans or other substantial restrictions affecting the safety or efficiency of UAS operations. Such restrictions, the officials said, are presenting UAS operators with what DOT characterized as a ‘daunting regulatory patchwork’ of differing restrictions, many of which the Department believes could conflict either with current law or with regulatory policies it may wish to develop in the future. Further, the DOT officials told us, the Department believes the regulatory uncertainty created by what they referred to as a ‘hodge-podge of differing federal and state regimes’ threatens to dampen innovation and investment in commercial drone use and impede progress toward the federal goal of UAS integration.”

USDOT has also established a pilot program to test and evaluate the integration of UAS into the national airspace system – Virginia Tech’s Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) was one of the original ten lead participants. In October 2020, then US Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao announced the conclusion of the three-year UAS Integration Pilot Program (IPP), and indicated that eight of the nine state, local, and tribal governments that participated in the program, including the CIT team, signed new agreements with the FAA to continue to tackle remaining UAS integration challenges. The eight governments will now participate in the BEYOND initiative, which is focused “on operating under established rules rather than waivers, collecting data to develop performance-based standards, collecting and addressing community feedback and understanding the societal and community benefits, and to streamline the approval processes for UAS integration.” The requirements established by the FAA in 2019, including recreational drone pilots in the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) system, which automates the application and approval process for drone pilots to allow for more efficient correspondence between drone pilots and air traffic controllers, remain in place. Thus far, there has not been any activity related to the BEYOND initiative under the Biden administration. (Updates and reaffirms previous position.)

### **Parity for Transit Benefits**

**Support continued parity between the levels of transportation benefits provided for transit and for parking.**

Permanent parity between the level of tax-free employer-provided transit benefits and parking benefits is important in making transit service more attractive to commuters. The 2017 Tax Reform and Jobs Act eliminated the business deduction for private employers providing qualified mass transit and parking subsidies (this change did not affect the federal government, which can continue to provide such

subsidies). In the past, businesses were able to claim a federal business tax deduction on the amount they contributed to the commuter benefits program. Now, private sector employees can choose to contribute a portion of their income for qualified mass transit and parking expenses, pre-tax. On January 1, 2020, the limit was increased from \$265 to \$270 per month. The public transit subsidy for federal employees was also raised to \$270 per month in 2020 and this monthly rate continued through 2021. Since most County transit riders have vehicles available, an end to deductions for employers in the private sector may result in more commuters driving, thereby worsening the substantial congestion on Northern Virginia's roads. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

### **Transportation Projects**

The IJA has created several competitive grant opportunities over the next several years. At the same time, Congress is again considering increasing the use of project-specific funding mechanisms. As these various funding opportunities become available, the County supports the following key transportation priorities:

- **Richmond Highway (US Route 1) Widening and BRT:**

The Richmond Highway Corridor is one of the most heavily transit-dependent areas of Fairfax County, and one that is critically important to federal operations as an access point and evacuation route for Fort Belvoir (falling under the priority designation for grant funding that Congress explicitly recognized in federal law). It is also one of the most congested and economically disadvantaged areas of the County. Embark Richmond Highway is an initiative focused on creating a multimodal future for the Corridor, which includes long-term planning efforts and a focus on economic development.

The County is working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to widen Richmond Highway between Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (south) and Sherwood Hall Lane, providing a six-lane facility that will complement the recently-completed project widening Richmond Highway from Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This will result in a six-lane facility between Fort Belvoir and I-95/I-495 in Alexandria (including both pedestrian and bicycle facilities), and will also provide the center median needed for a BRT project to operate. This is a fundamental part of the Embark plan (the BRT will extend from the Huntington Metrorail Station to Fort Belvoir). In addition, a future Metrorail extension is anticipated from Huntington to the Hybla Valley Community Business Center. The project will include new transit stations, as well as facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians. These projects will enhance the value of current and future federal investments, among them the BRAC-related improvements to Fort Belvoir facilities, by improving access to and mobility around Fort Belvoir. In July 2021, the County submitted an application for the USDOT's RAISE grant program requesting \$25 million for this project, but the project was not selected to receive funding (no Virginia projects were selected). *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Soapstone Connector:**

The Soapstone Drive Connector over the Dulles Corridor (Dulles Toll Road, Dulles International Airport Access Highway, and the Metrorail Silver Line) will provide connectivity and accessibility to the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station by connecting major east-west roads (Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley Drive) located north and south of the Corridor. This new roadway will create additional capacity across the Dulles Corridor, reduce congestion, and improve accessibility

and mobility to and within the area surrounding the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station, as well as relieve congestion on Reston Parkway and Wiehle Avenue. By including designated northbound and southbound bike lanes and pedestrian sidewalks, and providing another route option for local and regional transit operators to use, the project improves multimodal connectivity to and around Wiehle-Reston East. This additional connection across the Dulles Toll Road will also improve traffic operations in Reston overall. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Fairfax County Parkway Widening from Route 123 to Nomes Court:**

This project widens the Fairfax County Parkway from four to six lanes, and provides or improves pedestrian and bicycle amenities. The construction of a grade-separated interchange at Popes Head Road immediately north of this segment, which has been funded by federal, state, regional, and local funding, will accommodate and connect with the future Shirley Gate Road extension. The Parkway is one of the most heavily congested roadways in Fairfax County, particularly the segment between Route 123 and Route 29. Widening this section of the Parkway and the related intersection improvements at Popes Head Road will serve to reduce congestion, improve safety, and increase travel time reliability. These multimodal improvements will serve to better connect central and southern Fairfax County with travel choices aimed at reducing congestion. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Frontier Drive Extension:**

This project will extend Frontier Drive from Franconia-Springfield Parkway to Loisdale Road, including access to the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station and interchange improvements to and from the Franconia-Springfield Parkway. This project is designed to reduce congestion on I-95 between the Fairfax County Parkway and Old Keene Mill Road/Franconia Road, and in the area around the Springfield Town Center. It will enhance connectivity and access to and from the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station, Springfield Town Center, and the Springfield Industrial Park. The project will also create a better multimodal environment by including bike and pedestrian accommodations. Additionally, the extension of Frontier Drive will provide significant benefits to the new Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Headquarters in Springfield. Though this area currently has substantial and varied transportation and transit options, this project will further increase access, creating benefits for Fairfax County, the Northern Virginia region, and the federal government. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Seven Corners Interchange:**

The Seven Corners area in eastern Fairfax County encompasses the Seven Corners Interchange, where three regional commuter routes (Arlington Boulevard/Route 50, Leesburg Pike/Route 7, and Wilson Boulevard/Sleepy Hollow Road) converge. The existing Seven Corners Interchange is a confusing confluence of major roads and multiple signalized intersections, with extremely limited pedestrian facilities and no bicycle facilities. As a result, most of the intersections at the Seven Corners Interchange operate poorly during peak periods, causing high levels of congestion, long periods of vehicular delay, and safety concerns for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. The County's updated Comprehensive Plan for the Seven Corners area includes a concept for a new Seven Corners Interchange, designed to alleviate these significant challenges. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Potomac River Crossings:**

The need to cross the Potomac River creates major transportation challenges in the National Capital Region. The American Legion Bridge, one of the most heavily used in the region, is also the most congested, with traffic volumes expected to increase over the next 25 years. Since the largest number of vehicles traversing the American Legion Bridge travel between Fairfax and Montgomery Counties, the chokepoint created by this bridge requires long-term solutions – the interstate agreement announced in November 2019 to replace the American Legion Bridge is a significant step forward. Additionally, approximately 170,000 people cross the river each day through the Rosslyn Tunnel on Metrorail Blue, Orange, and Silver Line service. In the next 25 years, that number is expected to increase to 185,000 passengers crossing per day. The volume of commuters demonstrates that another crossing is essential to mobility in the area. Unfortunately, the capacity constraints of the Rosslyn Tunnel already create significant limits on transit service. It is vital that the capacity needs across the Potomac River be addressed, including at the American Legion Bridge and Rosslyn Tunnel, to alleviate the existing congestion and ensure the movement of people and goods throughout this economically vibrant region. Such action is essential to the economic success of Fairfax County and the National Capital Region. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

## FEDERAL FACILITIES

### Federal Agency Relocation, Consolidation, and Related Activities

**Support relocation of federal facilities to sites in Fairfax County with close proximity to transit and numerous transportation options, to mitigate transportation impacts while encouraging redevelopment and job growth in the County. Also support the inclusion of sufficient funds to address the planning, infrastructure, and transportation issues raised by the federal agency relocations.**

Both the Commonwealth and Fairfax County have strong connections to the federal government, which provide tremendous economic growth opportunities, but also create a unique vulnerability to fluctuations in federal funding, particularly as it relates to defense spending. In the FY 2020 US Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) “Defense Spending by State” report, the Commonwealth of Virginia ranked second in total defense spending (\$64.3 billion), first as a percentage of state GDP (including \$44.8 billion in defense contract spending), and first in defense personnel spending (\$19.4 billion) – Fairfax County is vital to those placements, ranking second nationally in defense contract spending at \$17.7 billion (a significant increase from \$9.9 billion in FY 2016). Additionally, the Commonwealth ranked second in defense personnel, employing over 250,000 individuals, including nearly 22,500 in Fairfax County.

Fairfax County has a strong partnership with the federal government, and the County supports continuing that relationship by seeking additional federal agency relocations and consolidations, accompanied by appropriate federal funding and coordinated planning to ensure impacts are mitigated and a successful outcome is achieved for both the County and the federal government. Fairfax County will continue to focus on the County’s role in the National Capital Region, its well-educated workforce, strong business climate, and connection to the functioning of the federal government, while closely monitoring potential future federal funding cuts that could affect the County and local economy.

In particular, Fairfax County supports:

- ***Relocation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Headquarters to Springfield, and other federal facilities to locations within Fairfax County.*** There are several pending opportunities to leverage Fairfax County’s strategic location in Northern Virginia for federal agencies considering relocations, including the relocation of the FBI headquarters from its current location in downtown Washington, D.C. (the Senate FY 2022 Financial Services appropriations bill directs the General Services Administration to report to Congress within 180 days on the construction of a new FBI headquarters in the National Capital Region). The establishment of such workplaces increases the economic vitality of the County by encouraging business development in the surrounding area, supporting small businesses, and growing the tax base, among other benefits. The relocation of the TSA to Fairfax County reaffirms the robust collaboration between the County and the federal government, underscoring the opportunities that continue to exist, and the importance of sustained advocacy for the benefits the County provides to the federal workforce. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- ***Legislative language requiring greater coordination between a federal agency and host communities in any future federal government relocation and consolidation proposals for both new facilities and the use of existing facilities.*** Any future federal government relocations or consolidations should include a requirement that the appropriate federal agency analyze the transportation impacts of such a recommendation, both on the facility and the surrounding community, before final recommendations (including provisions addressing the identified transportation impacts) are made (as was done when the relocation of the FBI was being considered). Coordination should continue following such relocations as well – for example, agencies should provide Transportation Demand Management services and strategies, including offering information on transit options, mandating that employees stationed at the facility telecommute or arrive at work before or after peak rush hour, assigning preferential parking to carpool users, and other options. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- ***Funding for transportation projects essential to DOD relocation and consolidation.*** Continued collaboration between Fairfax County and its federal partners is necessary to provide transportation improvements in the areas most directly affected by ongoing operations at Fort Belvoir. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- ***Distribution of full funding (\$180 million) for widening US Route 1.*** The Defense Access Roads program, administered by the DOD OEA, appropriated \$180 million in federal funds to widen US Route 1 from Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, to improve road access and traffic flow to the Fort Belvoir Army Hospital. This phase of the Route 1 widening is complete, and approximately \$30-\$34 million in unspent funds remains in the program; such funding could be used for additional improvements in the Route 1 corridor within the scope of the Defense Access Roads requirements. However, OEA personnel have stated that after completion of all six Veterans Affairs Hospital infrastructure improvement projects, OEA will seek guidance from the relevant Congressional committees on how the remaining funds should be spent. Currently, the OEA expects all projects to be completed by 2022 or 2023. The County continues to work with its Congressional delegation, federal agencies, and state partners on

efforts to ensure that **available revenue can be** utilized to mitigate impacts in the Route 1 corridor as intended. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position).*

## TAXATION AND FINANCE

### **Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds**

**Support maintaining the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds as a critical tool generating investments in vital public infrastructure for localities, saving state and local governments nationwide hundreds of billions in interest costs over the last century.**

As the primary source of funding for local infrastructure projects, municipal bonds have provided localities throughout the US with a valuable funding tool for decades. In Fairfax County, such bonds are vital for strengthening economic development efforts. Fortunately, the 2017 Tax Reform and Jobs Act continued the tax deduction for municipal bonds, but there is still a risk that the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds could be eliminated. While the 2017 tax law protected tax-exempt municipal bonds, it eliminated the advanced refunding of such bonds. Fairfax County supports reinstating advanced refunding and preserving tax-exempt municipal bonds. Large municipalities would be particularly damaged if similar proposals are considered in the future, as the repeal of tax-exempt status would increase the debt service burden on counties nationwide by over \$9 billion annually. The County urges Congress to maintain this critical exemption. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

## HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

### **Federal Funding for Costs of Educating Federally-Connected Students**

**Support full funding for Impact Aid, which provides funding to school divisions that educate federally-connected students, and revisions to the Impact Aid eligibility process to ensure all students with military student identifiers are automatically included in the program. Also support increased Impact Aid funding for schools with a substantial population of military-connected families, as well as increased funding for military-connected students with disabilities who receive special needs exemptions. Additionally, support federal reimbursement for costs associated with educating **and providing supportive services to** unaccompanied minors placed in Fairfax County by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).**

Impact Aid serves many federally-connected families and provides the well-educated workforce and strong business climate that is so vital to the functioning of the federal government. Serving **nearly 18,300** federally-connected children places a significant cost on Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) (data from the **2020-2021** school year). The federal government attempts to compensate localities for these costs through the Impact Aid program, which is designed to assist local school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property, or that have experienced increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally-connected children. However, this program has been underfunded in recent years, and does not adequately compensate localities for the actual cost of providing a quality K-12 education. In FY **2022**, FCPS expects to receive approximately \$3.2 million in Impact Aid, which covers only one percent of the costs incurred by FCPS to educate such children. If this program were fully funded, FCPS would have received approximately an additional **\$22.5** million in FY **2022**. FCPS receives less Impact Aid than other school divisions partially because when Impact Aid is not fully funded, as has been the case for decades, the funding formula prioritizes school districts with a

higher percentage of military-connected students, rather than school districts like FCPS that have both more military-connected children overall and specific schools with high concentrations of military-connected students. Additional Impact Aid funding is needed to mitigate the effect of that component of the formula. Furthermore, revising the Impact Aid eligibility identification process to automatically “opt in” any student with a military student identifier would be extremely helpful in ensuring that FCPS receives Impact Aid funding for all military-connected students.

In addition to basic Impact Aid funding, school districts also receive payments for federally-connected children who have disabilities resulting in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), but in FY 2021 this payment was only \$638 per child, despite the fact that it costs FCPS more than \$26,100 per year per child to provide special education services (FCPS has nearly 1,300 military-connected students with IEPs). Increased Impact Aid funding is needed for military-connected students with disabilities who receive special needs exemptions.

Additionally, significant numbers of federally-connected, school-aged children have been placed in Fairfax County through the federal ORR over the last decade. In fact, between October 1, 2013, and July 31, 2021, Fairfax County had the eighth highest number of placements in the country (nearly 7,200). Though the County celebrates its diversity, and recognizes that a diverse student population benefits all children in the school system, these placements (and the corresponding financial impacts on FCPS) are unpredictable, fluctuating dramatically over the past several years, and frequently occur after the adoption of local budgets. In addition, many unaccompanied children need supportive services, including case management, basic needs assistance, employment preparation, and health care, which are no longer provided by ORR once children are placed with sponsors. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (Position on Impact Aid funding is consistent with the Fairfax County School Board’s position.)*

### **Social Safety Net**

**Support federal funding for programs and services that provide a critical social safety net for vulnerable Americans. Also support sustained federal funding to address the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (including continued flexibility in the use of existing and future funds), particularly as the pandemic further demonstrated and heightened the need for robust and equitable health and human services programs.**

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. Healthy and engaged individuals, families, and communities are the foundation of the US’ present and future security and prosperity, and ensuring this foundation requires a strong partnership across all levels of government to maintain the critical safety net. Fairfax County opposes 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, and supports programs and funding streams that:

- Help residents of Fairfax County meet their basic needs, from nutrition programs to homelessness prevention and affordable housing, such as the Community Services Block Grant and Homeless Assistance Grants (including Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants);
- Get Americans back to work and support economic development, including job training;
- Improve access to affordable, quality child care for families with low incomes, including increased funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant;

- Provide local flexibility to meet the needs of a changing and challenging economic climate, while avoiding penalties to localities that exhibit prudent fiscal management;
- Promote school readiness for at-risk children, including increased funding for Head Start;
- Protect the health and well-being of residents through programs such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP);
- Provide sufficient funding to meet federal mandates, or at a minimum, adequate flexibility to ensure the success of priority programs;
- Ensure that the basic needs of low-income military families are met (many are paid so little that they are forced to use public assistance to feed their families);
- Incentivize affordable housing creation and preservation, including full funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME, which provides funding for affordable housing through acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, and tenant-based rental assistance) and other innovative financing tools;
- Support expansions and changes to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program (such changes are currently under consideration in the proposed Build Back Better Act).
- Help older adults and people with disabilities remain safe and independent in their communities, such as the Older Americans Act programs; and,
- Assist states in providing adult protective services and long-term care ombudsman programs. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

### **Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**

**Support funding to address housing, water, infrastructure, and human service needs, and to expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and communities.**

CDBG provides flexible funding for localities to address the needs of low- and moderate-income individuals, including community development activities to address threats to health or safety, rehabilitation of housing, construction, and improvement of public facilities (such as water, sewer, and sidewalks), and job creation/retention activities (in FY 2021, Fairfax County received an estimated \$6.1 million in CDBG funds). Congress provided formula/entitlement funding for CDBG at \$3.3 billion in FY 2019, \$3.4 billion in FY 2020, and \$3.45 billion in FY 2021. For FY 2022, the Biden Administration proposed \$3.4 billion, the House proposed over \$3.7 billion in funding for CDBG, and the Senate has proposed \$3.55 billion for CDBG. Fairfax County supports increasing CDBG funding to \$4.2 billion in FY 2022, which is the level requested by NACo. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

### **Department of Justice (DOJ)**

**Support federal assistance to state and local governments to develop and implement programs designed to improve outcomes for individuals with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system. Also support continued funding for DOJ programs that provide critical support to local law enforcement.**

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) provides funding for state and local governments to develop and implement programs designed to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health issues who are involved in the criminal justice system. Law enforcement officers are often the first responders when an individual is in a mental health crisis – the Fairfax County Police Department received nearly 10,000 mental health-related calls from January – December 2020. Such calls, at times, can lead to incarceration for non-violent offenses, precluding individuals from receiving

appropriate treatment for behavioral health issues. Locally, Fairfax County’s “Diversion First” initiative offers alternatives to incarceration for people with behavioral health issues who come into contact with the criminal justice system. The program has already had a significant impact – since 2016, more than 2,400 people have been diverted from potential arrest. Additionally, there has been a 28 percent decrease in the behavioral health population with misdemeanor charges from 2015 to 2020. Over the same period, the number of inmates referred to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) jail-based services increased by 21 percent. Though the average daily population has decreased since FY 2008, the medical complexities of inmates has increased, with complex substance use and mental health disorders becoming more common. Federal funding is needed to sustain and expand this critical initiative; Fairfax County supports full funding (\$50 million) of the JMHCP, which has not been fully funded since its inception in 2004. The program received \$35 million in FY 2021, and the Biden Administration requested \$40 million for FY 2022. The House proposed \$45 million in FY 2022, while the Senate proposed \$42 million for that year.

The County also supports increased funding, or at a minimum, level funding, for DOJ programs that provide critical support to County law enforcement, including: the Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne/JAG); the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP); and, the COPS Hiring Grant Program. Federal funding from these programs assists the County in combatting crime, managing better outcomes for youth, and achieving the highest level of public safety for its residents. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

### **Gang Prevention and Intervention**

**Support greater federal efforts to assist localities with gang prevention and intervention programs, and stronger gang prevention measures.**

Since 2003, the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force has implemented a regional solution to gang-related violence and crime which transcends jurisdictional boundaries, through prevention/education, intervention, re-entry programs, and enforcement. Federal funds were allocated through DOJ appropriations bills from 2003 to 2012, ensuring that the Task Force was adequately staffed with necessary resources to implement critical programs, such as Intervention Prevention Education (IPE). However, the Task Force has received limited federal funds since 2012, leaving Northern Virginia localities to fill the funding gap (in a helpful change, the Task Force was awarded a Byrne Grant totaling approximately \$119,000 on January 1, 2020). Though some localities, like Fairfax County, provide resources and funding to the Task Force, fiscal challenges have made providing the funding needed difficult without federal support, and as a result, not all Northern Virginia localities have continued their involvement. Thus, programs like IPE are operating at a reduced level, personnel are needed (i.e., law enforcement data analysts and gang coordinators, among others), and regional cooperation has diminished while gang-related violence continues to occur in Northern Virginia. Alarming, approximately 590 Fairfax County Public School students who responded to the 2019-2020 Fairfax County Youth Survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reported being a gang member at some point in their life. Continued federal funding for programs that provide resources to localities (such as DOJ’s Project Safe Neighborhoods) is necessary to restore the Task Force’s capacity and expand essential programs to combat gang-related violence and crime. *(Reaffirms previous position.) (Note: The Fairfax County Youth Survey was not conducted during the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)*

## **Substance Use Disorder**

**Support efforts that increase capacity to address the ongoing substance use disorder epidemic through community-based treatment (including detoxification, medication-assisted, residential, and intensive outpatient programs) and innovative efforts to limit the supply of opioids. Also support coordinated strategies to meet the growing need for substance use disorder services that target specific high-risk age groups. In particular, regulatory action and innovative approaches to prevention and nicotine addiction treatment are necessary to address the vaping crisis that is affecting teens and young adults at an alarming rate.**

Across Virginia, the number of fatal overdoses set a new record high, with about 2,300 fatalities in calendar year 2020 – an increase of over 40 percent from 2019. In the Fairfax Health District (including Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church), opioids are the number one cause of unnatural death, with 94 opioid overdose deaths in 2020, all but seven of these fatalities were due to fentanyl. Unfortunately, the Virginia Department of Health is predicting that 2021 may be the worst year on record by far for fatal overdoses. Though federal actions in recent years to expand prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery programs, make reforms to Medicaid and Medicare to better serve program participants with substance use disorders, and provide greater support for federal drug courts are positive steps, more funding is needed for treatment, prevention, and drug courts to respond to the increasing need for services.

Another concerning trend is the widespread use of e-cigarettes, which have been the most used tobacco product among youth since 2014. In 2020, more than 3.6 million American middle and high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the previous 30 days. In Fairfax County, among students surveyed in the 8th, 10th and 12th grades, more students reported vaping within a month of the survey date in November 2019 than using any other substances, and lifetime prevalence rates were high across all age groups (13.2 percent of 8th graders, 26.2 percent of 10th graders, and 37.3 percent of 12th graders). Though e-cigarettes became popular because they have been considered less harmful than regular cigarettes, the recent discovery of severe respiratory illness in otherwise healthy young people as a deadly complication of vaping has raised alarm throughout the US. In addition to increased federal funding for prevention and nicotine addiction treatment, the US Food and Drug Administration could ban menthol-flavored e-cigarette and vaping liquid, which is popular with youth; accelerate the evaluation of the health impacts of e-cigarettes and vaping products; allocate funding to increase communication of the risks associated with vaping THC and products purchased on the street; and, strengthen enforcement to ensure e-cigarettes and vaping products are not marketed or sold to youth. It is essential that all substance use prevention programs and services are adequately funded, cost-efficient, accessible, and outcome driven. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (Note: The Fairfax County Youth Survey was not conducted during the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)*

## CONTINUING PRINCIPLES

### Census

- Support continued funding for the US Census Bureau as it implements the 2020 Census and its subsequent data releases, which have major implications for the distribution of federal funding, Congressional redistricting, and the availability of social, demographic, and economic data used to guide policy decisions. An accurate census count is critical to state and local government operations, and various survey programs, primarily the American Community Survey (a demographics survey program conducted by the Census Bureau) provide data annually, as essential tools for state and local governments, informing decision-making and program development. It is estimated that Virginia will lose up to \$2,000 annually for each person not counted, or more than \$20,000 per person over a decade. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support the use of accurate, equitable methodology in carrying out census operations. The Census Bureau is required to keep personally identifiable information confidential – in order to do this they utilize a disclosure avoidance methodology that relies on “data swapping” between census blocks as its main disclosure avoidance technique – essentially data about certain households is switched with those from different neighborhoods to anonymize the data. In 2020, changes to this methodology were implemented, leading to concerns about data accuracy (which could have a significant impact on larger jurisdictions like Fairfax County, since a possible effect of the practice is to shift population counts from larger to smaller jurisdictions). *(New position.)*
- Support the timely dissemination of 2020 census data, which is a critical part of the ongoing redistricting process. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support continued funding for the Census Bureau in the long-term, as the agency conducts research and development of information-gathering technology to be used in anticipation of the 2030 Census. *(New position.)*

### Consumer Protection

- Support efforts to enhance consumer protections in products sold by alternative financial services, such as payday loans and vehicle title loans, to minimize the negative financial impact of such products on financially vulnerable consumers. Payday and vehicle title loans are often associated with practices that drive consumers further into debt. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

### Education

- Support full funding for Impact Aid, which provides funding to school divisions that educate federally-connected students. Also, support increased Impact Aid funding for schools with a substantial population of military-connected families, as well as increased funding for military-connected students with disabilities who receive special needs exemptions. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support revisions to the Impact Aid eligibility process to ensure all students with military student identifiers are automatically included in the program. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support fully funding the costs of implementing federal mandates, such as the requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), and support broad flexibility and additional resources to carry them out. *(Reaffirms previous 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. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

## **Elections**

- Support federal efforts, especially those of the US Department of Homeland Security, to ensure the security and reliability of voting technology and operations, and elections results as part of the nation's critical infrastructure, including funding for technical improvements. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support sufficient, ongoing federal funding to assist states and localities in implementing any new federal mandates for elections equipment and infrastructure, including accessibility and security requirements. The Virginia Department of Elections received approximately \$9 million in cybersecurity Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds in 2018, but HAVA funding for other aspects of election administration is needed. If states are the recipients of federal funding for improvements to election administration, consultation with localities should be required in determining the use of the funds. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Monitor potential impacts of the Supreme Court decision striking down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, which eliminated the requirement that changes to Virginia's election laws be "pre-cleared." *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support legislation that enhances collaboration between federal agencies, states, and localities for election administration and security, including funding for federal agencies (such as the US Election Assistance Commission) that disseminate research and information on elections administration and infrastructure. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

## **Environment**

- Support incentives and innovations that encourage environmental preservation, enhancement, and resource conservation, including solid waste management improvements (such as extended producer responsibility, which ensures producers of consumer products are appropriately responsible for the treatment and disposal of the post-consumer products that they generate). *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support incentives for open space preservation and enhancement, including within developed areas. *(Updates and reaffirms previous 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. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support initiatives to enhance tree canopy in urban areas. *(New position.)*

## **Federal Contracting**

- 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. *(Reaffirms previous 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. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

## **Health**

- Support close monitoring of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), ensuring provision of critical health coverage and an efficient allocation of resources, while providing clear direction and appropriate

incentives for consumers and employers, and avoiding both service reductions and restrictions on access to care. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

- Support close collaboration between the federal government and the Commonwealth to maximize Medicaid expansion in Virginia. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support enhanced Medicaid reimbursement for skilled nursing care. *(New position.)*
- Support appropriate oversight by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of Medicaid-funded transportation service, in order to resolve ongoing complaints stemming from consistent poor performance and ensure adequate service is restored. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support federal funding initiatives that will advance research, surveillance, reporting, and diagnostics for Lyme disease. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support parity between primary healthcare and behavioral healthcare to ensure reimbursement parity for critically important behavioral health services. *(New position.)*

### **Homeland Security/Emergency Operations**

- Support greater funding for “high risk” areas such as Northern Virginia and Fairfax County. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support timely delivery of funds and ways to achieve greater flexibility for use of funds, while maintaining strong accountability standards. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support federal assistance for the implementation of “Next Generation 911,” a major change in the provision of 911 services that is particularly critical for the National Capital Region. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support efforts to allow local governments to perform hazard mitigation work when a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant application is pending to ensure essential mitigation efforts are not delayed while awaiting award decisions. *(New position.)*

### **Immigration**

- Oppose actions that would compromise the County’s ability to deliver local government programs and services that benefit or protect the community as a whole. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Oppose legislation that would mandate local governments to enforce federal immigration laws, especially in the area of law enforcement. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

### **Land Use**

- 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. *(Reaffirms previous 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. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

### **Libraries**

- Support increased federal aid to state library agencies and local public libraries. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) provides critically important federal funding for the nation’s libraries, including resources which allow the Library of Virginia to support local libraries, early learning, summer reading, training for library staff, and access to Virginia’s documentary history. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

- Support reducing barriers to libraries acquiring eMaterials under reasonable terms and costs. *(New position.)*

### **Local Taxation**

- 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. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support legislation allowing local governments to participate in the Federal Offset Program, which would improve the ability of local governments to collect delinquent local taxes by offsetting the owed taxes with reductions in the federal income tax refunds of the delinquent individual. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Oppose federal efforts to limit or delay the ability of states to collect sales tax from remote sellers. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

### **Public Safety**

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

### **Telecommunications/Communications**

- Oppose any preemption or circumvention of local governments' control over land use decisions, including restrictions on the placement, construction, and modification of small cell and other wireless facilities, undergrounding requirements, and the implementation of time limits for reviewing wireless facility applications. Also, oppose any attempt to eliminate local governments' right to charge, on a non-discriminatory basis, fair and reasonable compensation for use of public property. Monitor implementation of FCC action to expand Section 6409 rules (including ruling on commencement of shot clock and expansion of the 30-foot area to deploy transmission equipment) or otherwise further diminish local authority over telecommunications facilities and equipment. *(Updates and reaffirms previous 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. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*