



PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY

2020 Legislative Agenda

David Westcott – Legislative Affairs



Overview



PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY

- The recommendations in this presentation are based on the legislative priorities as identified by county staff as the most necessary to help overcome challenges in meeting the adopted Strategic Plan goals.
- The stated legislative priorities are those for which we identified likely support from regional partners, state legislators, and/or other jurisdictions.
- Legislative positions for other initiatives will be used to guide lobbying efforts in support or objection to potential legislative initiatives and legislation that emerges during the legislative session.
- I will be updating the Board of County Supervisors throughout the legislative session, and seeking any input on changes in their position or for feedback on issues where the Board does not have a stated position.

Legislative Agenda | Tuesday, November 19, 2019 2

Legislative Priorities



SMART Scale Evaluation

Support legislation that allows projects through the District Grant Program (DGP) and High Priority Projects Program (HPPP) to be scored and evaluated against other projects in their respective District

- This allows districts to determine the greatest need in their district without being negatively affected by scoring in other districts.
- Currently, all projects in the state are scored and ranked against all state-wide projects even if they are not funded through the DGP or HPPP
- The evaluations within the District should be used to distribute DGP funds
- The existing legislation should be modified to ensure that the administration does not have authority to change the outcome of evaluations or shift District priorities to benefit projects in other Districts

Legislative Priorities



Medicaid

- Support legislation that fully funds the Priority 1 Medicaid Waiver Wait List in the Biennium Budget
 - 769 individuals in the Greater Prince William community are on the waiting list for Medicaid developmental disability waivers.
 - 200 of these individuals are Priority 1.
- Support legislation that increases waiver reimbursement rates for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
 - Current rates for waiver services are based on outdated information from a 2013 study
 - State reimbursement rates do not cover the costs for providers of community services or HCBS nursing services
- Support legislation that funds early intervention for infants and toddlers
 - The reimbursement rate does not adequately fund costs for Medicaid Early Intervention Case Management

Legislative Priorities



I-95 Corridor Funding

- Support legislation that creates and provides funding for projects identified in the I-95 Corridor Study
 - I-95 in Prince William County is identified as one of the most congested interstate segments in the Commonwealth.
 - I-95 congestion in Prince William County is likely to increase as workforce and housing demands in the region continue, which will be a significant obstacle to future local and regional economic development

Legislative Priorities



Fully Fund STEP-VA mandates

Support legislation that fully funds CSBs to meet code-mandated timelines for implementing STEP-VA services and support.

- Distribute funding based on formula that considers population size and need
- Restore base budget state general fund dollars taken from CSBs as a result of Medicaid Expansion

Legislative Priorities



Community Safety Officers

Support legislation that amends VRS regulations so as to allow retired police officers to perform the Community Safety Officer functions in schools without impacting their retirement benefit.

- State legislation allows retired police officers to serve as armed security officers in schools, but does not allow a means for them to do so without negatively affecting their retirement benefits.
- Suggest similar legislation to the Teaching While Retired VRS provision

Legislative Priorities



Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program

Support legislation that increases funding for Medicated Assisted Treatment to help Prince William County address issues stemming from the opioid epidemic.

- Include expansion of prescribers and wraparound funding
- Helps fund treatment services, detox, and residential treatment and transitional housing

Legislative Priorities



K-12 Education Funding

Support legislation to fully fund the state's share of K-12 education.

- Request increased funding for operational and capital expenditures for Prince William County Public Schools
- State public education funding model assumes a shared funding model between state and local governments to share the obligation of educating our youth equitably. Yet, the State currently fails to fully fund the implementation of all Standards of Quality requirements.
- County requests the General Assembly to fully fund the Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA) for Prince William County Public Schools to ensure local funding goes toward meeting the needs of the schools rather than backfilling state reductions or obligations.

Legislative Positions



State and Local Partnerships

- Protect state financial assistance to localities from state budget reductions
- Oppose efforts to preempt, restrict, or limit local revenue raising authority
- Oppose any new state mandate or service responsibilities that are not fully funded by the Commonwealth and "maintenance of effort" clauses for locally funded services
- Support efforts to increase or eliminate the fee cap for VSMP General Construction Permit.
- Support changes to state distribution formulas to better reflect population figures in the Commonwealth
- Preserve local tax legal standards
- Fully fund state mandated VRS retirement and employment benefits
- Fully fund Line of Duty Act

Legislative Positions



Safe & Secure Community

- Reimburse local and regional jails for the full cost of housing state-responsible inmates
- Support the continuation of OCJS pretrial services and maintain core functions of providing risk assessments and defendant release recommendations to judicial officers as well as supervise appropriately released defendants to ensure conditions of release are adhered to while pending trial
- Support increased funding for pretrial services
- Support legislation requiring hands-free phone use while driving in the Commonwealth

Legislative Positions



Mobility

- Support legislation to increase to limitations for Engineering Contract Terms on transportation projects for localities to \$5 million, consistent with the state limitation.
- Support legislation to increase funding for VDOT Secondary Road Maintenance Program
- Support legislation that increases flexibility in the Notification of Surveys to allow jurisdictions the ability to expedite surveys on properties with non-responsive land owners
- Support legislation to increase funding for VRE and PRTC OmniRide services in Prince William County
- Support legislation that increases and restores funding for VDOT programs that support Prince William County
- Support legislation to revise or offer interpretation to the Uniform Act to allow for right-of-entry or construction easements where applicable
- Support legislation that incorporates streetlights as a utility to allow State or Federal transportation funds and maintenance funds to be used for these imperative traffic safety measures to be installed.
- Support legislation to reinstate the state match from \$5 million to a minimum of \$10 million to support critical transportation needs in the county

Legislative Positions



Quality Education & Workforce Development

- Support JLARC study to review the true cost of public education in the Commonwealth and the State role in funding those costs with the goal of elevating the Standards of Quality (SOQ) measures used to calculate the State share of public education costs.
- Support increased funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) to make CTE more readily available and better serve the education needs of *all* students and better meet the growing demands of Virginia's workforce
- Support funding for the Northern Virginia Community College, and particularly, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Workforce Credentials Initiative.
- Support efforts to increase funding for school capital infrastructure provided such measures do not disadvantage Prince William County.
- Support additional resources for programs that support workforce training and retraining for programs that support defense activities.

Legislative Positions



Robust Economy

- Oppose any legislation that would eliminate or reduce the Data Center Retail Sales and Use Tax Exemption or that would require additional reporting beyond annual reports currently required for the exemption
- Support efforts to increase funding for the George Mason University Science and Technology campus, particularly funding for an academic 8 building to support growth in the life sciences and engineering programs on its Prince William County campus.
- Oppose reduction in county land use authority.

Legislative Positions



Wellbeing

- Support establishing a permanent line item to adequately fund the Virginia Housing Trust Fund
- Support Increasing the availability of Permanent Supportive Housing
- Support legislation that fully funds CSBs to meet code-mandated timelines for implementing STEP-VA services and support
 - Distribute funding based on formula that considers population size and need
 - Restore base budget state general fund dollars taken from CSBs as a result of Medicaid expansion
- Increase funding for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Fund educational programs for Older Adults in partnership with local Senior Centers, which support the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Roadmap to address the opioid epidemic and substance use disorders within the Older Adult community.
- Support legislation that allows preliminary protective orders to be implemented immediately upon the request of local Adult Protective Services (APS).
- Support legislation that fully funds the cost of the auxiliary grant program for elderly persons and people with disabilities.
 - Increase funding so there are more available auxiliary grants while maintaining the required 20% local match

Legislative Positions



Administration of Government

- Support funding for 2020 Census activities to fund education, preparation and outreach efforts to assure a complete count of every person living in Virginia
- Support legislation that eliminates the current requirement for localities to purchase newspaper advertisements for lawful public notice as newspaper advertisement is the highest cost and lowest reach for citizen access to information.
- Support Legislation to include Fitch Ratings among the Nationally Recognized Rating Organization (NRSO) allowed under the Code of Virginia Chapter 45 Investment of Public Funds Act.
- Support SB 1633 (2019) to extend the deadline for submission of the Comparative Report of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures to the Auditor of Public Accounts from November 30 to December 15 and also extends the deadline for the statement of the Auditor of Public Accounts detailing the total and per capita revenues and expenditure of all localities for the preceding fiscal year from January 31 to February 15.

Legislative Calendar



- November 18 – Prefiling begins
- **December 3 – BOCS adopt legislative priorities**
- December 5 - All requests for drafts of legislation to be pre-filed to Legislative Services by 5:00 p.m.
- December 30 - All drafts of legislation to be prefiled available for review by midnight
- January 8 – Prefiling ends at 10 a.m.
- January 8 – General Assembly Convenes in Richmond