

**BROADBAND** *Urges the Commonwealth and the Federal Government to continue providing financial and administrative assistance to Counties* in their efforts to deploy universal affordable access to the internet for all areas, particularly in underserved and rural areas.

**EDUCATION** *Recognize the State's Role in Funding Quality Education* by fully funding public education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education and basing teacher pay raises on actual positions, not just SOQ requirements.

Based on the recent JLARC study, public education in **Virginia** is critically underfunded. The report shows that school divisions in Virginia receive less funding per student than the 50-state average, the regional average and three of the state's neighbors under the formula. The report also found that the SOQ formula distributes significantly less funding than actual division spending and underestimates staffing needs.

*Enhance School Safety and Security* by allocating state funds to make school facilities more secure, provide for student safety and prevent future school attacks.

*Preserve the authority for localities to have School Resource Officers (SROs) in public schools and continue State funding to the Department of Criminal Justice Services for the provision of incentive grants* to assist localities in providing SROs in all public schools.

**FUNDING** *End Unfunded Mandates and State Funding Reductions to Local Government* - Reduce state mandates and fully fund the state share in those areas where the state has served as a funding partner with local government: public education, public safety and Constitutional Officers.

*Protect Local Governments' Taxing Authority for Current Revenue Sources.* Each General Assembly session, bills are introduced to eliminate, restrict, or weaken local governments' ability to levy taxes on its existing revenue sources. Montgomery County asks that our current revenue sources be protected.

*Strengthen the County's Revenue Base by Enacting Equal Taxing Authority* by eliminating the distinction in the taxing authority of Virginia's cities, counties and towns.

*Strengthen the Diversity of Local Revenues by Sharing Income Taxes or Other Revenue Sources in Support of Local Services* by distributing a percentage of individual income tax revenues or allowing other sources to generate revenue locally for locally delivered services.

*Amend Section 58.1-3203 of the Code of Virginia Taxation of Certain Leasehold Interests* to allow localities to assess for taxation non-exempt leasehold interests in real property that is exempt at one hundred (100) percent.

*Community Services Board Funding Method* - supports requesting the **Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)** to allow the Community Services Board to use the previously closed fiscal year actual state funding received for local Community Services Board in order to accurately gage the amount of 10% funding request to local governing bodies.

**LAND USE** *Preserve land use authority at the local level, and support opportunities for localities* to utilize the most effective land use tools available to them, depending on their needs.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** *Oppose eliminating qualified immunity* which is a legal principal that grants law enforcement and other government officials performing discretionary functions immunity from civil suits unless the

plaintiff shows that the official violated clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known.

*Line of Duty Act: Support Amendment to the Code of Virginia* to afford private Police Officers the benefits available under Virginia Code § 9.1-400 et seq., Line of Duty Act.

*Eliminate Animal License Tax for Retired K-9 Dogs.* Support amending the Code of Virginia § 3.2-6528 Amount of License Tax, by adding no license tax shall be levied on any dog that is a retired K-9 police or military dog.

*Public Safety Telecommunicators (E-911) Dispatchers. Virginia Retirement System; enhanced retirement benefits for 911 dispatchers.* Support adding 911 dispatchers to the list of local employees eligible to receive enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service.

**RECREATION** *Support funding for the planning, development and implementation of a multi-jurisdictional trail system* interconnecting existing trails to create a long distance network through Southwest Virginia including Montgomery County's first phase - the Valley to Valley Trail - to connect the New River and Roanoke Valleys.

**TRANSPORTATION** *Interstate 81 Corridor Improvements* support and fund the Commonwealth's Transportation Board Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement plan for Interstate 81 corridor improvements. *(continued on next page)*  
*Continue to Support Passenger Rail Expansion to the New River Valley* by providing funding to extend the Amtrak passenger rail service from the Roanoke Valley to the New River Valley.

*Support funding to localities to help offset public safety operations* by

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia hereby supports legislation that may be introduced in the 2024 General Assembly session that supports the following initiatives for our citizens:



recognizing the financial burden to localities that respond to incidents along the I-81 Corridor.

*Address the decline in transportation revenues made available to Counties and develop recommendations to increase funding* to meet increasing demands for new construction and maintenance for existing transportation infrastructure. Funding for the secondary road needs of counties throughout the Commonwealth has been vastly reduced over the past 10 years.

*Support changes to simplify and improve the Smart Scale process* used to allocate transportation funds. Reduce application costs/timing, improve scoring methodology to allow for more proactive planning for safety improvements, and ensure funds are distributed equally across the state.

*Truck Size and Weight* opposes any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight beyond the current federal standards, thereby stressing the capacity of the Commonwealth's road systems and putting highways, roads and bridges at risk of increased damage or deterioration.

*Note:* On January 8, 2024, the Board of Supervisors voted 5-2 **against** the inclusion of local support of school vouchers or tuition tax credit for elementary and secondary students who attend private and home schools in Montgomery County's 2024 Legislative Priorities. Those in favor of school vouchers or tuition tax credit included: Steve R. Fijalkowski and M. Todd King. Those not in favor of school vouchers or tuition tax credit included: Mary W. Biggs, April N. DeMotts, Sara R. Bohn, Derek W. Kitts, and Anthony M. Graftsky.

## *Contact Montgomery County*

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