

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 10TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

R-FY-18-43
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2018

On a motion by Mary W. Biggs, seconded by April N. DeMotts and carried unanimously,

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia hereby supports legislation that may be introduced in the 2018 General Assembly session that ends the transfer of state funding shortfalls to localities and the continued shift of services traditionally provided by the state to local government.

The Board further supports legislation that strengthens localities' ability to fund and deliver services to our citizens including:

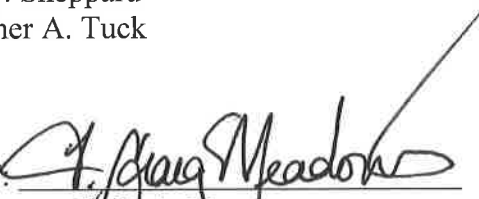
- ***Ending Unfunded Mandates on Local Government*** by reducing state mandates in proportion to state revenue reductions. Also, shifting the delivery of state services such as transportation should end.
- ***Ending Future State Funding Reductions*** in the two areas where the state has served as a partner with local government: public education and public safety.
- ***Recognizing the State's Role in Funding Quality Education*** by fully funding the state Standards of Quality (SOQ), basing teacher pay raises on actual positions, not just SOQ.
- ***Protecting 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.
- ***Strengthening 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, providing the authority to levy a local income tax, or allowing other sources to generate revenue locally for locally delivered services.
- ***Strengthening 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.
- ***Power to Levy Tax upon the Sale or Use of Cigarettes.*** Montgomery County requests legislation adding Montgomery County to the list of counties who can levy tax upon the sale or use of cigarettes. The revenues generated from the tax imposed shall be used solely for school maintenance and construction.

- ***Amend the Virginia Water and Wastewater Authorities Act, Section 15.2-5100 et. seq.,*** to enable Authorities formed under this Act to provide broadband service to underserved areas within the locality.
- ***Amend Section 58.1-3331 of the Code of Virginia relating to the mandate that owners with less than four residential units shall be given a 45 day notice prior to hearing their appeal of the assessment before the Board of Equalization.*** Montgomery County supports language amending this section to remove the forty five day notice mandate and replace it with a minimum notice period of fifteen days with the option for the landowner to request additional time if needed. The current language creates a scheduling problem for four and six year assessment localities and does not give the landowner the option to have their hearing heard earlier than 45 days.
- ***Strengthen State Funding for public libraries to improve childhood literacy and invigorate STEM focused instruction in Schools. Support the Library of Virginia to strengthen its financial foundation.***
- ***Mandatory Water and Sewer Connections*** Montgomery County requests legislation adding Montgomery County to the list of counties who can require mandatory water and sewer connections pursuant to the authority contained in Section 15.2-2110 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended.
- ***Eliminate Split Voting Precincts in Montgomery County*** Montgomery County requests that technical adjustments be made to the boundaries of House Districts 7, 8, and 12 in Montgomery County in order to eliminate split voting precincts in Montgomery County.
- ***Supporting an amendment to Chapter 638 Virginia Acts of Assembly relating to the New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority*** authorizing the Authority to develop a formula for the allocation of costs among the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, Montgomery County and Virginia Tech upon approval of each governing body.

The vote on the forgoing resolution was as follows:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Gary D. Creed	None
Annette S. Perkins	
M. Todd King	
Mary S. Biggs	
April N. DeMotts	
Darrell O. Sheppard	
Christopher A. Tuck	

ATTEST:


 F. Craig Meadows
 County Administrator