



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

### County Board Agenda Item Meeting of November 19, 2011

**DATE:** October 14, 2011

**SUBJECT:** 2012 General Assembly Legislative Items

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

After receiving public comment on the Arlington County Board 2012 General Assembly Legislative Items at the November meeting, close the public hearing. Finalize the legislative items at the December 10, 2011 meeting.

**ISSUES:** Recommendations for the Legislative Items have been solicited from Board Members, County staff, and the County's Boards and Commissions. No issues have been identified.

**SUMMARY:** Attached is a draft of Arlington's 2012 Legislative Items for the public hearing at the November 19 County Board Meeting. To reflect the continuing work this fall by local, regional and state groups, adjustments will be incorporated as the public review and comment period proceeds. The County Board will adopt a final version at its December meeting.

**BACKGROUND:** The 2012 General Assembly session begins on January 11, 2012 and is scheduled to end on March 10. It is the Assembly's 60 day "long session." On December 19, 2011, the governor will submit his proposed biennial budget for 2012-2014 as well as any amendments he is recommending to the FY 2012 budget. While no specific issues have emerged for the session, fiscal issues are likely to predominate.

The County Board's work session with Arlington's legislators will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Board Room.

**DISCUSSION:** One of the major issues for the 2012 General Assembly session will be balancing the budget.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Due to the complexities of the General Assembly process, it is impossible to quantify the fiscal impact at this time.

County Manager:

*BMD/SFW*

County Attorney:

*[Signature]*

Staff: Patricia B. Carroll, CMO

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## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

### 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

#### A. Finance

1. Local Taxing Authority: Retain all current local taxing authority, including collecting business license, and machinery and tools taxes at the current rates.
2. On-Line Travel Companies/Modifying State Sales and Local Transient Occupancy Taxes: Ensure the collection and remission by on-line travel companies (OTCs) of all state sales and local Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) levies associated with on-line travel sales.
3. Restoration of Funding to Localities: Support the restoration of the Commonwealth's funding responsibilities to localities as laid out in state statutes, the constitution and public policy
4. Unfunded Mandates: Oppose any mandates from the Commonwealth that are not fully funded, including additional administrative burdens on local governments.

#### B. Transportation

1. Design Review Process: Work with VDOT to develop and implement urban design standards to expedite the review process, save staff time, and accelerate construction.
2. Transportation Funding: Ensure full funding of transportation maintenance and construction costs. Raise new revenues for statewide funding for all transportation modes that are from one or more stable, reliable, and permanent non-general fund sources.
3. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority: Ensure that the Commonwealth meets its long-term funding commitments to WMATA and partners with WMATA's Northern Virginia localities to recognize their importance in the governing structure.

#### C. Local Authority

1. Employee Benefits/Health Care: Increase Arlington County's and other public employers' competitive edge by permitting localities to manage personnel functions, and to decide which benefits they need to offer.
2. Equal Tax and Bonding Authority: Equalize county taxing and bonding authority with that of cities.
3. Land Use Policies: Support authority of local governments to plan land use, without restrictions on local zoning authority or zoning process.

4. Eminent Domain: Oppose constitutional amendment and other attempts to restrict local eminent domain authority and make transportation and other capital projects more costly.

#### **D. Housing**

1. Housing Trust Fund: Create a State Housing Trust Fund with a dedicated source of revenue that would provide statewide funding for affordable housing, including the construction of new housing, and the purchase and renovation of existing housing to make it livable, accessible, and affordable.
2. Assistance to Tenants: Work with state agencies to assist low income tenants who want to remain in their communities while their housing is being upgraded and renovated.

#### **E. Civil Rights Initiatives**

1. Immigration: Oppose any state mandates to localities requiring local law enforcement officers to evaluate the immigration status of individuals encountered during lawful stops or other routine police activities.
2. Education: Ensure access at in-state tuition rates to Virginia colleges and technical schools for all high school graduates, including undocumented students who meet residency and other reasonable requirements.
3. Services: Support proposals to promote the integration, assimilation and increased civic engagement of our immigrant population, and any initiatives that ensure the immigrant community is treated fairly.

#### **F. Public Safety/Emergencies**

1. Domestic Violence: Support enhanced domestic violence protections, including expansion of mental health resources for children and youth exposed to domestic and teen dating violence.
2. Jail Diversion Efforts/Drug Courts: Support jail diversion efforts for individuals with mental health or substance abuse issues who become involved with the criminal justice system.
3. Line of Duty: Seek full state funding for state mandated Line of Duty benefits, or the local option to establish own program.

#### **G. Energy and the Environment**

1. Interstate Compact for Potomac River Basin and Chesapeake Bay Cleanup: Maintain funding for water supply and water quality needs, including Water Quality Improvement Fund.
2. Energy/Environment: Support state and local environmental sustainability programs and policies and the financial tools necessary to implement them.

## H. Human Services

1. Criminalize financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults: Make it a crime to knowingly take control of an elderly or vulnerable adult's property or financial resources with the intent to deprive the adult of its use.
2. Services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities: Support keeping seniors and people with disabilities in their homes and communities by maintaining and enhancing funds for nutrition, transportation, and in-home care. Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for personal care services, and provide workers access to affordable health insurance and advanced training.
3. Provide Community-Based Continuum of Psychiatric Care: Continue to fund the post-acute care for older adults with severe mental health issues provided by Northern Virginia's RAFT program.
4. Mental Health Services: Restore 19 Adult Beds at Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute and implement regional crisis intervention and stabilization for children and older adults with mental health and mental health with substance abuse issues.
5. Community Services Act (CSA): Oppose the state's shifting costs to localities by moving children receiving mental health services from Medicaid to the CSA system. Ensure that the state pays its share of administrative costs which have increased so that localities are paying more than 80%.
6. Health Department Regulations: Restore reproductive health services.

*"Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important."*

— Arlington County Board Vision Statement