



Board of Supervisors

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2016 Legislative Agenda



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Draft Legislative Agenda 2016

New Kent County Board of Supervisors

Part I. 2015 Legislative Agenda Action Items

1.1 Funding for Alternatives to Groundwater

Request the creation of an Alternative Water Supply Fund would help businesses and communities meet the new groundwater withdrawal requirements, while reducing the depletion of groundwater supplies. Whether new water supplies come from existing surface water withdrawals, reclaimed water usage, or communities banding together to obtain new surface water withdrawals, the costs will be extremely expensive causing businesses and communities to suffer economically, not only in those regions effected , but to the Commonwealth as a whole.

1.2 Interstate 64 Widening

Request the General Assembly make the widening of I-64 (from Interstate 295 to exit 232 (Lightfoot) a priority; and that the widening occur with aesthetic sensitivity. I-64 is the primary gateway to many commercial and tourist destinations, military installations, and all of eastern Virginia. New Kent asks the Richmond based legislative delegations to develop and pursue a long term, unified strategy to accomplish the widening of I-64.

1.3 Broadband

Request the General Assembly to assist private providers in their efforts to deploy affordable access to high speed internet services (“Broadband”) for the benefit of businesses and education in underserved and rural areas. State assistance should include economic incentives as well as statewide budgetary and statutory policies that facilitate broadband-deployment.

1.4 Certificate of Public Need

The Certificate of Public Need (COPN) program was mandated in all states by the U.S. Congress under the Health Resources Development Act of 1974. The idea was that regulation was necessary to prevent the costly duplication of health care services in the United States. A number of states have repealed or modified their

COPN statutes since the federal government no longer mandates the program. New Kent County finds that such practices restrict access to health care, and competition and free markets are far better at controlling prices, therefore New Kent urges the General Assembly to repeal the COPN statutes.

1.5 Industrial Residual

Request that the Department of Environmental Quality conduct or commission a comprehensive study to determine the potential environmental and health risks of the land application of industrial residuals and to establish regulations specifically designed for industrial residuals based on the characteristics of residuals from different sources, including testing parameters, application methods, setbacks, record keeping, inspection protocols and enforcement authority.

1.6 Local Fiscal Impact

Request that the General Assembly amend the Code of Virginia to require that all bills that have a local fiscal impact – whether to localities or local school divisions – be filed on the first day of a Session of the General Assembly to provide time for fiscal impact analysis.

Part II. Position/Legislation Supported By the County

- 2-1. New Kent supports full funding for all legislation mandated for localities by the General Assembly that has a cost associated with it. Also, in the event that funding is no longer provided by the Commonwealth at a future time the mandate would sunset and no longer be binding on the localities.
- 2-2. New Kent supports legislation that incentivizes regional cooperation and service delivery to promote efficiency, mitigate inequities, and overcome barriers that result from Virginia's unique local government structure.
- 2-3. New Kent opposes any legislative or regulatory moratorium on the transfer of newly constructed secondary road to VDOT for the purposes of ongoing maintenance, and opposes any legislation that would require the transfer of secondary road construction and maintenance responsibilities to counties.
- 2-4. New Kent supports any legislation which will allow Colonial Downs to maximize its potential to benefit the Commonwealth and New Kent County.
- 2-5. New Kent County supports the Virginia Association of Counties 2016 Legislative program.