



New Kent County 2012 State Legislative Agenda

Part I. 2012 Legislative Agenda Action Items

1.1 Gaming

Study the impacts of expanding the options for gaming in the Commonwealth as a revenue source for transportation and resource protection infrastructure. The State is facing increasing levels of unfunded infrastructure needs for which a non-taxpayer-generated revenue source such as expanded gaming options at the existing pari-mutuel horse track could provide a substantial contribution. Studying the potential options available to determine positive and negative impacts, financial feasibility and the estimated revenue streams would allow decision-making to occur with full knowledge of the benefits and costs that could accrue.

1.2 Utilities

Equalize the cost of installation for regulated utilities when done by or through the regulated utility owner regardless of whether installed overhead or underground. In localities where the use of underground utilities is required, there are huge variations in the costs quoted to landowners and developers for placing utilities underground instead of overhead. In many cases, the cost differentials seems not to result from any documented difference in actual costs, but instead reflect the preference of a utility owner to maintain overhead utilities. Regulated utilities should not be permitted to engage in monopolistic price discrimination of this sort and should be required to equalize cost quotes regardless of whether the service is provided underground or overhead.

Part II. Position/Legislation Supported By the County

2-1. The County supports legislation increasing funding to the Virginia Department of Transportation in an amount sufficient to allow VDOT to resume regular maintenance of state-owned medians.

2-2. The County urges the General Assembly to increase funding for the Virginia Tourism Corporation to promote tourism in Virginia.

- 2-3. The County urges the General Assembly to address critical transportation infrastructure needs by using a statewide approach rather than a regional or local approach.
- 2-4. The County supports planning for a commuter rail system from Richmond to the Peninsula to connect urban centers for commuters and provide transportation alternatives.
- 2-5. The County supports legislation requiring the state to refrain from passing additional local unfunded mandates and postpone the implementation of costly regulations with a local fiscal impact.
- 2-6. The County 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.
- 2-7. The County Supports the Legislative programs of the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties, and the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission and emphasizes their position that the General Assembly should not approve a resolution to call for a vote on a constitutional amendment to limit the use of eminent domain.

Part III. Legislative Policy Statements

- 3-1. Any new enabling legislation should be made available to all localities and not be restricted or defined by size, geographic location, or rate of growth.
- 3-2. All enabling legislation should be permissive and not mandatory.
- 3-3. If legislation is proposed to be mandatory, then assurance must be provided that it does not fall into a "one size fits all" situation.
- 3-4. Mandatory legislation shall not impose unfunded costs on localities.
- 3-5. Proposed legislation shall be examined for unintended impacts or implications (e.g. establishing a standard that might be less stringent than one already being practiced by localities).