



Board of Supervisors

Thomas W. Evelyn
C. Thomas Tiller, Jr.
Patricia A. Paige
Ron Stiers
W. R. "Ray" Davis, Jr.

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 5

Rodney A. Hathaway
County Administrator

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2017 Legislative Agenda





Legislative Agenda 2017

New Kent County Board of Supervisors

Part I. 2017 Legislative Agenda Action Items

1.1 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.

1.2 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 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.

1.4 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.

1.5 Emergency Services Assistance

Over the past five years New Kent has experienced a 45% increase in emergency service transports resulting from incidents within the County. During calendar year 2015 approximately one quarter of all transports resulted from incidents on Interstate 64. Being a small rural locality, emergency service transports take needed resources away from the County, and on many occasions have left New Kent in a “No Units Available” status. New Kent County request that the General Assembly provide financial aid to localities to assist with the provision of emergency services on Interstate Highways. Aide should be formula based, taking into account highway miles, population, and a locality’s ability to support such services.

1.6 Sea-level Rise

New Kent request that a sub-committee be formed to study the impacts of sea level rise on inland rivers and tributaries. More specifically the impacts on water salinity, vegetation, and wildlife habitats.

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 supports legislation that would provide adequate funding for secondary road maintenance.
- 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 2017 Legislative program.