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County Administrator

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# 2014 Legislative Agenda

Adopted November 20, 2013



12007 Courthouse Circle, P O Box 150, New Kent, VA 23124

New Kent (804) 966-9683/Fax (804) 966-9370



## Legislative Agenda 2014

### New Kent County Board of Supervisors

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#### **Part I. 2014 Legislative Agenda Action Items**

##### 1.1 Stormwater Regulations

New Kent County supports the Commonwealth allowing localities at least a one-year extension in implementing the new stormwater regulations. Preferably, the County supports the State continuing to administer the VSMP permit through DEQ.

##### 1.2 Interstate 64

New Kent urges the General Assembly to make widening of I-64 (from I-295 to Newport News) a priority; and that the widening be done 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 and Peninsula-based legislative delegation to develop and pursue a long-term, unified strategy to accomplish the widening of I-64.

##### 1.2 Broadband

New Kent urges the General Assembly to assist private providers in their efforts to deploy affordable access to high speed internet services ("Broadband") to residents and businesses in underserved and rural areas. State assistance should include economic incentives as well as statewide budgetary and statutory policies that facilitate broadband-deployment.

##### 1.3 Public Education Funding

New Kent requests that the General Assembly fully fund its share of the realistic costs of the Standards of Quality without making formula and policy changes that shift the funding burden to localities.

1.4 VRS Benefits for State Funded Teacher Salaries

New Kent requests that the General Assembly ensures that the state appropriates adequate monies to fund its pro rata share of the required contributions for VRS benefits for state funded teacher salaries.

1.5 Comprehensive Services Act

As there are increasing demands for services for high risk children/youth with severe emotional and behavioral problems, New Kent opposes any reductions to Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) funding. New Kent also opposes a State appropriation cap on general fund expenditures, requiring local governments to meet the costs for federally mandated sum sufficient cases, as well as any reduction to the State Medicaid match rate for therapeutic services for high risk children/youth.

New Kent supports additional administrative funding for local CSA programs. To date, administrative funding has not increased and is insufficient considering the scope and complexities of the program.

1.6 Interoperability

New Kent supports the State's goal that by 2015 agencies and their representatives at the local, regional, state and federal levels will be able to communicate using compatible systems to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations and major emergencies. New Kent requests the dedication of federal and state funding sources to achieve this goal.

1.7 Line of Duty

VACo calls on the General Assembly to fully fund the Line of Duty Act (LODA) obligations and return LODA to a state program. An alternative would be for the state to make LODA coverage optional at the local level or provide localities the option to only pay basic death benefits. LODA benefits eligibility determinations should be the responsibility of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission and not the State Comptroller's Office.

1.8 Gaming

New Kent requests a study on 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.

**Part II. Position/Legislation Supported By the County**

- 2-1. The County supports full funding for all legislation mandated for localities by the General Assembly that has a cost associated. 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. 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.
- 2-3. New Kent opposes any legislative or regulatory moratorium on the transfer of newly constructed secondary roads 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 County supports the Virginia Association of Counties 2014 Legislative program.