



Board of Supervisors

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## New Kent County Legislative Agenda

### 2023 General Assembly Session

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#### 2023 Legislative Agenda Action Items

1. Mental Health

Request that a committee be formed to develop a plan to address the following issues that impact localities in regards to the Commonwealth's current mental health crisis:

- a. Emergency Custody Orders /Temporary Detention Orders (ECO/TDO) – manpower intensive for law enforcement – extended periods of time sitting with individuals, transportation required to facilities in distance locations within the Commonwealth, ties up the already limited law enforcement manpower. No authorization allowing anyone other than law enforcement to maintain custody of ECO/TDO or involuntary committals until received at a designated mental health facility.
- b. Mental Health resources – these are non-existent in our area: limited facilities, limited personnel to assist, limited services available to those in need, no after-hours assistance from local mental health agencies, no resources available to respond with law enforcement or to come to scene once secured by law enforcement
- c. Hospitalization – no treatment provided until moved to a mental health facility, law enforcement is forced to sit with the patient who is not receiving treatment for long periods of time, in some cases the hospitals are requiring the removal of restraints in their facilities and the law enforcement is left to go hands on to intervene if needed, patients are lying in beds/stretchers for hours on end with NO mental health intervention/treatment
- d. Transportation – no resources available to take custody and to transport to assigned facilities withing the state, law enforcement is transporting statewide to facilities, in most cases requires two LEOs to complete the transport.

2. VDOT Traffic Speed Studies  
Request that a committee be formed to develop a process that allows localities to have more input in the outcomes of traffic speed studies. Localities are responsible for traffic enforcement, emergency services, and other impacts related to traffic speeds along roadways within its jurisdiction, therefore there should be a process in place that takes into account input from the locality.
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.
4. Funding for Court Personnel  
The state should provide sufficient funding for the salaries of court personnel, but for years the Commonwealth has ignored this obligation and failed to adequately fund court personnel in New Kent County, instead relying on the County to ensure the efficient and appropriate administration of justice.
5. Victim Witness Grant Program  
Request that funding for the Victim Witness grant program be maintained at the fiscal year 2023 level. Localities across the Commonwealth have received notice from the Department of Criminal Justice Services to anticipate a reduction in FY 2024 funding, which could have significant impacts on this important program.
6. Diascund State Park  
Request that funds be appropriated in the FY 2024 State budget for engineering and design to develop and construct a new State Park on 273 acres of County owned land located on the Diascund Reservoir.

## **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 County supports legislation that would give localities the option to use electronic or other forms of notification as an alternative to newspaper advertising for required notices of public hearings.
- 2-4 Local authority to accept cash and in-kind proffers from developers must be preserved. Such proffers assist with providing necessary capital facilities and infrastructure to serve new development and maintain local community standards, in order to maintain and improve quality of life and spur economic development.
- 2-5 Oppose any legislation that would require the transfer of secondary road construction and maintenance responsibilities to counties, especially if these efforts are not accompanied with corresponding revenue enhancements. Also oppose any legislative or regulatory moratorium on the transfer of newly constructed secondary roads to VDOT for the purposes of ongoing maintenance.