**GENERAL ASSEMBLY** 

# Legislative Agenda



2026 SESSION

## **Table of Contents**

| POLICY PRIORITIES   | 3  |
|---|----|
| Affordable Housing  | 3  |
| Economic Development  | 3  |
| Education   | 4  |
| Energy  | 4  |
| Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Impacts                                    | 5  |
| Flooding and Environment  | 5  |
| Land Use  | 6  |
| Public Safety   | 6  |
| Transportation  | 7  |
| CHARTER AMENDMENTS  | 8  |
| Protecting the Blue Line  | 8  |
| VIRGINIA CODE AMENDMENTS  | 9  |
| De-listing Short-term Rentals   | 9  |
| Establish the Emergency Responder Grant Fund and Program                    | 10 |
| Expanding the allowable expenses under "Four for Life" funding              | 11 |
| Increase the Fire Programs Fund   | 12 |
| Low-impact Utility Markings   | 13 |
| Marsh Terrace Project Permit  | 14 |
| Menhaden Fishing Regulation   | 15 |
| "Pop-Up" Event Zones  | 16 |
| BUDGET REQUESTS   | 18 |
| Budget Requests   | 18 |
| Empowering Local Governments: Funding Unfunded Mandates Through Partnership | 19 |



## Affordable Housing

The City of Virginia Beach seeks to address the growing need for affordable housing with the goal to ensure that all residents have access to safe, high quality, and affordable housing and to promote inclusive and diverse communities.

- Because every locality has its unique challenges, the City of Virginia Beach encourages the General Assembly to provide funding, incentives, and policy flexibility to allow localities to tailor solutions that will fit their communities while maintaining the ability to control land use decisions at the local level.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports efforts to reform the eviction process to ensure that tenants
  have adequate opportunities to meet their rental requirements and remain in their homes while
  safeguarding investments made by landlords.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports increased funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund to expand and preserve the supply of affordable homes.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports efforts to establish, expand, and fund rental assistance programs and first-time homebuyer assistance programs.

## **Economic Development**

The City of Virginia Beach aims to implement a dynamic and forward-thinking economic development strategy designed to foster sustainable growth, enhance economic diversification, and promote innovation.

- The City of Virginia Beach encourages the General Assembly to support local and regional efforts to attract and retain talent that will support the growing workforce needs of the Hampton Roads region.
- The City of Virginia Beach encourages the General Assembly to support initiatives that provide funding, incentives, and policy flexibility that aligns with the City's economic growth strategy.
- The City of Virginia Beach requests continued support from the General Assembly to increase access to affordable childcare.
- The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly provide funding for the recently created Sports Tourism Grant Program.



#### Education

The City of Virginia Beach continues to support the Virginia Beach School Board's efforts to enhance educational resources, teacher support, and student development to foster a robust educational environment and prepare students for future success.

- The City of Virginia Beach encourages the General Assembly to implement reforms to increase the Commonwealth's share of education funding as was identified in the 2024 JLARC study regarding Virginia's K-12 Funding Formula.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports efforts by the General Assembly to provide additional funding
  to support school construction, including efforts to ensure that Virginia Lottery Funds are utilized
  to enhance education funding, not supplant existing needs and allocations. As construction costs
  continue to increase, it is critical that localities have support from the Commonwealth to
  continue to modernize school facilities.

## Energy

With growing power demand and rising electric bills, the City of Virginia Beach encourages the Commonwealth to seek common sense solutions that enhance energy sustainability, reliability, and affordability.

- The City of Virginia Beach supports efforts by the General Assembly to reduce the cost and administration of renewable energy interconnectivity at municipal facilities.
- While the City of Virginia Beach supports the Commonwealth's goals to increase the use of clean
  energy, it is critical to recognize the potential impact utility scale energy and battery storage
  projects have on communities and localities. Because of these potential impacts, the City of
  Virginia Beach encourages the General Assembly to continue to support the authority of localities
  to regulate the siting and development of energy facilities.



## Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Impacts

The City of Virginia Beach seeks to address fiscal challenges and annual budgetary impacts in a responsible manner that effectively meets essential services and community needs.

- Federal Government decisions to realign its priorities, reduce the federal workforce, and reform
  federal programs, will likely impact the Commonwealth's economy and reduce available
  services. When resources are not available at the federal or state level, it falls onto local
  governments to provide resources for residents most in need, especially as it comes to health
  care, housing, and food insecurity. The City of Virginia Beach encourages the General Assembly to
  prioritize filling these funding gaps where possible and to partner with local governments to
  support those who will be impacted.
- The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly refrain from capping, removing, or restricting local government revenue sources without replacing the source with a sustainable revenue source of equal rate.
- City staff have identified more than 75 mandates from the state and federal governments that
  have created an unfunded burden of more than \$125 million annually with another \$110 million
  identified by Virginia Beach Public Schools. The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General
  Assembly refrain from creating additional unfunded mandates and provide financial support to fill
  the gaps created by these unfunded mandates.
- Maintain local option regarding collective bargaining for public sector employees

## Flooding and Environment

The City of Virginia Beach aims to improve resilience to flooding, enhance stormwater infrastructure, and promote sustainable practices to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events.

- The City of Virginia Beach requests that the Commonwealth develop a state funding program to support the non-federal match requirements of localities for federal grants that support largescale flood relief projects.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports continued investment in the Storm Water Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) for improvements and installation of effective storm water management controls.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports increased funding for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund along with improved guidelines for the program that increases the project cap, extends the loan period, and delays interest accrual until project completion.



#### Land Use

The City of Virginia Beach aims to utilize a comprehensive land use and development strategy to guide sustainable growth, optimize land utilization, and enhance the quality of life for its residents.

- The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly refrain from passing legislation that would reduce or eliminate the authority of the Commonwealth's localities from making their own land use decisions.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports preserving local authority to regulate short term rentals and to enhance enforcement of those regulations, including greater authority to localities to enforce their zoning ordinances as they relate to short term rentals.

## **Public Safety**

The City of Virginia Beach seeks to ensure a safe and healthy community for residents and visitors through proactive measures, enhanced technology, and increased resources.

- The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly prioritize increased dedicated funding to police, fire, and emergency medical services.
- The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly preserve existing local authority to implement public safety technology including expanding local authority to install speed enforcement cameras beyond school and construction zones and enable the use of noise abatement devices to better enhance the quality of life in our neighborhoods.
- The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly provide greater resources for localities and the Commonwealth's Office of Hemp Enforcement (OHE) to better educate the public, especially minors, on the risks of possessing and consuming intoxicating hemp products and to better enforce the laws regulating these products, with an emphasis placed on enforcement action plans for retailers who continue to sell intoxicating hemp products.



## **Transportation**

The City of Virginia Beach seeks to enhance mobility, reduce congestion, and improve sustainability of transportation infrastructure through modernizing road networks, supporting public transit and multimodal options, and ensuring safety and accessibility for all users.

- The City of Virginia Beach supports efforts to continue to improve highway and secondary roadway infrastructure throughout Hampton Roads.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports efforts by Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) to protect and enhance transit programs and funding including appropriate essential, consistent funding to meet HRT's capital and operating needs, including innovative transit options such as micro-transit.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports General Assembly efforts to continue investing in trail projects with a request that the Virginia Beach Trail be considered for any future funding opportunities.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports efforts by the General Assembly to protect vulnerable road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.
- The City of Virginia Beach supports efforts to promote micromobility options while also improving safety and user education related to e-bikes.



## Protecting the Blue Line

#### Background:

In 1979, the City of Virginia Beach established a growth boundary, known as the Green Line, to both safeguard rural and agricultural property and limit local spending. The Green Line was adopted, but not formally named, in 1979 to distinguish zoning districts, with residential zones north and agricultural ones south. The 1985 Comprehensive Plan formalized the Green Line and has remained in the same location. The City continues to recognize the role of the Green Line in limiting development south into the City's rural areas and limits costs of expanding infrastructure and services.

In 2004, the City's Public Utilities Department introduced the Blue Line as an urban services boundary, which established a hard stop for further southernly expansion of City water and sewer services. While the Green Line has historically been the primary growth management tool in the city's Comprehensive Plan, the Blue Line serves as an important additional tool.

Recognizing the Blue Line will help ensure a predictable gradient between the City's urbanized areas and its protected natural, rural, and agricultural areas.

#### Request:

The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly amend the City of Virginia Beach Charter to require an affirmative supermajority vote of three-fourths of all members of City Council to rezone property south of the Blue Line to a higher density or a more intense zoning district.

#### Language:

Amend City Charter to add Section 2.03. Procedure for Land Use Approvals South of the Blue Line

(proposed language to be determined by City Council)



## De-listing Short-term Rentals

#### Background:

The short-term rental (STR) market in Virginia Beach is a vital part of the city's tourism and lodging network. Because of this, the City of Virginia Beach has taken steps to improve the process to register as an STR operator while strengthening safety and preserving the character of neighborhoods.

There are more than 3,000 STRs operating in Virginia Beach at any given time. However, only about half operate within the state and local regulations. A major loophole in enforcement is that the owner of a non-compliant property can maintain their listing on STR platforms despite not adhering to regulations. Currently, localities do not have the authority to compel STR platforms to remove listings of non-compliant listings without time-consuming and costly court action.

To improve enforcement, public safety, and peaceful enjoyment of neighborhoods, the Commonwealth should grant localities the ability to require STR platforms to delist non-conforming STR listings.

#### Request:

The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly adopt legislation that grants localities the authority to require an STR platform to remove a nonconforming STR listing and refund/cancel bookings for that listing.



## Establish the Emergency Responder Grant Fund and Program

#### Background:

Firefighters and emergency responders are regularly exposed to toxic chemicals, carcinogens, and hazardous materials while on the job — even with protective gear. Research has shown alarming evidence indicating that firefighters are at a significantly higher risk of developing cancer compared to the general population. Studies from esteemed organizations such as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have consistently documented the relationship between firefighting and an increased risk of various cancers.

A state-funded cancer screening program would ensure early detection, which is critical to improving survival rates and reducing the long-term costs of treatment.

#### Request:

The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly establish and fund a grant program administered by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs to provide funding to localities for cancer screenings for first responders.



## Expanding the allowable expenses under "Four for Life" funding

#### Background:

Expanding the allowable expenses under the "Four for Life" program is a necessary and timely adjustment that recognizes the evolving needs of emergency medical services (EMS) agencies across the Commonwealth. While the current statute limits the use of "Four for Life" funds to training and the purchase of equipment and supplies, this narrow scope fails to account for the ongoing operational and logistical demands faced by EMS providers. Modern EMS operations require not only up-to-date equipment and properly trained personnel, but also safe and functional facilities, properly maintained vehicles, and adequate funding for essential day-to-day operations that ensure agencies can respond effectively to emergencies. Broadening the statute to include maintenance, facility improvements, permitted vehicle support, and other necessary operating costs would provide localities with the flexibility to meet their unique needs and ensure a stable, sustainable EMS infrastructure.

Furthermore, the proposed revision maintains the core intent of the "Four for Life" funding—to enhance prehospital emergency medical services—while providing localities with a more realistic and practical toolkit for using these funds. Local leaders are best positioned to assess their own communities' needs and granting them the discretion to allocate funds for operational expenses deemed necessary ensures that resources are used where they are most impactful.

#### Request:

The City of Virginia requests that the General Assembly adopt legislation that expands the allowable expenses under the "Four for Life" program.

#### Proposed language:

Amend Virginia Code Section 46.2-694 Fees for vehicles designed and used for transportation of passengers;

e. Twenty-six percent shall be returned by the Comptroller to the locality wherein such vehicle is registered, to provide funding for training of volunteer or salaried emergency medical services personnel of nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health and for the purchase or maintenance of necessary equipment, and supplies, facilities, vehicles permitted by the Virginia Office of EMS, and other operating expenses deemed necessary by the locality to ensure the provision of emergency medical services in that locality for use in such locality for emergency medical services provided by nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health.



## Increase the Fire Programs Fund

#### Background:

The Virginia Fire Programs Fund is derived from an annual one percent assessment of fire related insurance coverage. The Fund is used to provide an annual population-based allocation to localities throughout the Commonwealth, through the Aid to Localities Program (ATL). Funding supports the critical needs of Virginia Fire Departments, but with the significant rise in the cost of equipment and fire apparatus, the funding is no longer sufficient. According to a study conducted by the Virginia Fire Programs, across the Commonwealth calls for service have increased by 40% over the last three years while funding at the state level has remained relatively the same for 20 years. The last increase in the Virginia Fire Programs Fund occurred in 1995, going from .8% to 1%.

#### Request:

The City Council requests that the General Assembly increase the annual assessment levied on businesses that sell fire insurance premiums from the amount of one percent of the total direct gross premium income for such insurance to one and a half percent.

#### Proposed language:

Amend Virginia Code Section 38.2 Insurance, Chapter 4.

#### 38.2-401. Fire Programs Fund:

The Commission shall annually assess against all licensed insurance companies doing business in the Commonwealth by writing any type of insurance as defined in §§ 38.2-110, 38.2-111, 38.2-126, 38.2-130 and 38.2-131 and those combination policies as defined in §38.2-1921 that contain insurance as defined in §§ 38.2-110, 38.2-111 and 38.2-126, an assessment in the amount of one and one half percent of the total direct gross premium income for such insurance. Such assessment shall be apportioned, assessed and paid as prescribed by § 38.2-403. In any year in which a company has no direct gross premium income or in which its direct gross premium income is insufficient to produce at the rate of assessment prescribed by law an amount equal to or in excess of \$100, there shall be so apportioned and assessed against such company a contribution of \$100.



## Low-impact Utility Markings

#### Background:

Members of City Council and community stakeholders have previously shared concerns regarding the number of unsightly utility markings on sidewalks and streets, especially within the resort area, and have requested updates to regulations or policies to discourage the use of long-lasting paint/marking products. State law currently requires all underground utilities be marked per American Public Works Association standards prior to commencement and for the duration of a construction/excavation project.

The City of Virginia Beach has made strides in trying to reduce and eradicate the markings, including developing new guidelines and investing in the additional staff and equipment needed to remove them, however, the number of utility markings remains a concern.

#### Request:

The City Council requests that the General Assembly grant localities the authority, by ordinance, to require the use of low-impact markings when identifying utility locations in officially designated tourism zones.

#### Language:

Amend State Corporation Commission Rule 20VAC5-309-110. General Marking Requirements.

J. If the use of line marking is considered damaging to property (driveways, landscaping, historic locations, designated tourism districts, to the extent boundaries are known), "spot" marking or other suitable marking methods shall be used.



## Marsh Terrace Project Permit

#### Background:

The City of Virginia Beach is leading an effort to design and permit marsh terraces within Bonney Cove, located in the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The project will restore valuable habitat for Back Bay fish and wildlife species, improve water quality, and reduce flood impacts by reducing wave heights and water velocities.

Periods of sustained southerly winds push water from Currituck Sound into Back Bay, increasing water levels by several feet and flooding low-lying lands, homes, and critical roadways. Analysis has indicated that increased sea levels and marsh loss are significant contributing factors. The project site was strategically selected as it offers an opportunity to restore approximately 260 acres of marsh island habitat, utilizing a nature-based solution that both provides benefits to the natural ecosystem and in preventing flooding.

However, earlier this year the project was denied the required permit from the Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) due to the discovery of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). SAV is a valuable resource for the watershed. But the Marsh Terrace project will create an ecosystem that will promote SAV and allow it to thrive, restore valuable habitat for Back Bay fish and wildlife species, and improve water quality while providing critical flood protection benefits.

The benefits of this project far outweigh the impact both for the environment and for city residents, but the regulations set out by the VMRC do not allow for that distinction. The General Assembly should take action to permit this project to move forward.

#### Request:

The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly authorize the Virginia Marine Resource Commission to permit the marsh terrace project and allow it to move forward.

#### Language:

Amend Virginia Code Section 28.2-1205. Permits for the use of state-owned bottomlands

"A local government whose borders are adjacent to the Back Bay and its tributaries who is intending to construct wetlands within the Bonney Cove section of Back Bay and its tributaries, for the purposes of marsh restoration and/or creation shall be authorized by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission when the acreage of restored and/or created wetlands together with acreage promoting regrowth of submerged aquatic vegetation equals or exceeds the total acreage of direct impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation, plus direct impacts to "vegetated wetlands of Back Bay and its tributaries", and direct impacts to "nonvegetated wetlands."



## Menhaden Fishing Regulation

#### Background:

Atlantic menhaden is a small, nutrient-dense fish that supports healthy marine and estuarine ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay and throughout the coast. As a keystone forage fish, menhaden form a critical link between the bottom and top of the food chain.

Menhaden are largely regarded as one of "the most important fish in the sea." When menhaden populations are unhealthy or unsustainably harvested, other vital fisheries, tourism industries, and the health of the Chesapeake Bay are negatively impacted.

The state of Virginia is allowed roughly three-quarters of the coastwide menhaden harvest limit (nearly 350 million pounds), the majority of which comes from inside and adjacent of the Chesapeake Bay. Despite the concentrated, high-volume menhaden harvests in Virginia's waters, menhaden science in Chesapeake Bay is "woefully inadequate," according to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

Recreational fishing is a tremendous economic driver in Virginia Beach, contributing to the City's nearly \$3 billion tourism economy. The positive economic and cultural impacts of recreational fishing depend on productive fisheries, thriving ecosystems, and a healthy menhaden population.

#### Request:

The City of Virginia Beach requests the General Assembly devote additional resources to better understand the ecology of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay region and to direct the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to implement additional conservation-minded management strategies for the Menhaden Reduction fishery for Virginia's waters.

- Prohibit industrial reduction fishing in Virginia's waters until adequate science is developed to
  determine the sustainability of removing large volumes of this key forage species from the
  Chesapeake Bay estuary.
- Implement quota periods for the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Cap, to mitigate impacts of concentrated industrial fishing effort in the Bay.
- Adopt time and area closures in order to protect important predator species, such as osprey.
- Require fisheries observers on all purse-seine fishing trips within the Chesapeake Bay. Funding to come from a Virginia reduction landings fee established by the Commonwealth.



## "Pop-up" Event Zones

## Background:

Across the country, tourist destinations are facing a growing crisis: how to maintain public safety and essential government services in an era where anyone can use social media to rapidly organize large-scale gatherings. Again and again, cities and towns popular with visitors have been blindsided by well-intentioned but unpermitted events that spiral out of control—often with dangerous consequences.

One such example occurred in Virginia Beach, where a single weekend saw the police make 53 arrests, file over 200 charges, and confiscate 28 firearms—all while responding to multiple chaotic stampedes triggered by fears of gunfire. These are not isolated incidents—they are part of an increasingly frequent and unsustainable pattern that demands urgent action.

In response, several jurisdictions—including Maryland, Florida, and the District of Columbia—have enacted legislation empowering local governments to address these spontaneous social media-driven events. These measures include the authority to establish special enforcement zones, impose curfews for unaccompanied minors, limit occupancy on public and private properties, increase penalties for traffic violations, and recover costs from event organizers to cover the additional burden on public services.

Without similar tools, tourist destinations across the nation remain vulnerable to these unpredictable and potentially dangerous events.

#### Request:

The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly provide the authority for a locality to create a "Pop-Up Zone" that includes the following:

## **Pop-Up Event Zone Requirements**

| Definitions | "Pop-Up event" means an unpermitted            |  |
|-------------|--|--|
|             | temporary activity or event organized or       |  |
|             | promoted via a social media                    |  |
|             | platform where more than 50 people are         |  |
|             | expected to attend.                            |  |
|             |  |  |
|             | "Pop-Up Event Zone" means a contiguous area    |  |
|             | on or along a roadway, street, or highway      |  |
|             | which is designated by warning signs. The term |  |
|             | includes all parking structures, parking lots, |  |
|             | and any other property, whether public or      |  |

| Advance Notification  Localities must provide a minimum of 24 hours' public notice before a Pop-Up Event Zone is activated.  Public Information Webpage  A dedicated webpage must be launched detailing all enhanced enforcement measures, including:  Any reduced speed limits (with specific new limits clearly listed)  Curfew times for unaccompanied minors (with exact start and end times)  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  Traffic fines are doubled within the zone  Speed Limit Signage (if applicable)  If speed limits are reduced within the zone, |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Advance Notification  Localities must provide a minimum of 24 hours' public notice before a Pop-Up Event Zone is activated.  Public Information Webpage  A dedicated webpage must be launched detailing all enhanced enforcement measures, including:  Any reduced speed limits (with specific new limits clearly listed)  Curfew times for unaccompanied minors (with exact start and end times)  Zone Signage at Entry and Exit Points  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  Traffic fines are doubled within the zone   |                                       | private, immediately adjacent to or along the     |  |
| hours' public notice before a Pop-Up Event Zone is activated.  A dedicated webpage must be launched detailing all enhanced enforcement measures, including:  • Any reduced speed limits (with specific new limits clearly listed)  • Curfew times for unaccompanied minors (with exact start and end times)  Zone Signage at Entry and Exit Points  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  • A Pop-Up Event Zone is active • Traffic fines are doubled within the zone  |                                       | designated area.                                  |  |
| Zone is activated.  A dedicated webpage must be launched detailing all enhanced enforcement measures, including:  • Any reduced speed limits (with specific new limits clearly listed)  • Curfew times for unaccompanied minors (with exact start and end times)  Zone Signage at Entry and Exit Points  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  • A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  • Traffic fines are doubled within the zone  | Advance Notification                  | Localities must provide a minimum of 24           |  |
| A dedicated webpage must be launched detailing all enhanced enforcement measures, including:  • Any reduced speed limits (with specific new limits clearly listed)  • Curfew times for unaccompanied minors (with exact start and end times)  Zone Signage at Entry and Exit Points  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  • A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  • Traffic fines are doubled within the zone  |                                       | hours' public notice before a Pop-Up Event        |  |
| detailing all enhanced enforcement measures, including:  • Any reduced speed limits (with specific new limits clearly listed)  • Curfew times for unaccompanied minors (with exact start and end times)  Zone Signage at Entry and Exit Points  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  • A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  • Traffic fines are doubled within the zone   |                                       | Zone is activated.                                |  |
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| Any reduced speed limits (with specific new limits clearly listed)     Curfew times for unaccompanied minors (with exact start and end times)      Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:     A Pop-Up Event Zone is active     Traffic fines are doubled within the zone  |                                       | detailing all enhanced enforcement measures,      |  |
| new limits clearly listed)  Curfew times for unaccompanied minors (with exact start and end times)  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  Traffic fines are doubled within the zone   |                                       | including:  |  |
| new limits clearly listed)  Curfew times for unaccompanied minors (with exact start and end times)  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  Traffic fines are doubled within the zone   |                                       | Any reduced speed limits (with specific           |  |
| Zone Signage at Entry and Exit Points  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  Traffic fines are doubled within the zone  |                                       | new limits clearly listed)                        |  |
| Zone Signage at Entry and Exit Points  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  Traffic fines are doubled within the zone  |                                       | Curfew times for unaccompanied                    |  |
| Zone Signage at Entry and Exit Points  Clearly visible signage must be posted at all ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  A Pop-Up Event Zone is active Traffic fines are doubled within the zone   |                                       |   |  |
| ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone, informing the public that:  • A Pop-Up Event Zone is active  • Traffic fines are doubled within the zone   |                                       | ,   |  |
| <ul> <li>informing the public that:</li> <li>A Pop-Up Event Zone is active</li> <li>Traffic fines are doubled within the zone</li> </ul>   | Zone Signage at Entry and Exit Points | Clearly visible signage must be posted at all     |  |
| <ul> <li>A Pop-Up Event Zone is active</li> <li>Traffic fines are doubled within the zone</li> </ul>   |                                       | ingress and egress points of the Pop-Up Zone,     |  |
| Traffic fines are doubled within the zone  |                                       | informing the public that:                        |  |
| Traffic fines are doubled within the zone  |                                       | <ul> <li>A Pop-Up Event Zone is active</li> </ul> |  |
| zone   |                                       |   |  |
|  |                                       |   |  |
| Speed Limit Signage (if applicable)  If speed limits are reduced within the zone,  |                                       |   |  |
|  | Speed Limit Signage (if applicable)   | If speed limits are reduced within the zone.      |  |
| additional signage must be installed to clearly  | approximately                         |   |  |
| indicate the new speed limit to motorists.   |                                       |   |  |

# **Pop-Up Event Zone Enforcement Powers**

| Enhanced Traffic Fines              | Localities may impose increased traffic fines |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                     | within the Pop-Up Zone, not to exceed \$500   |  |
|                                     | per violation                                 |  |
| Temporary Speed Limit Reductions:   | Authorities may reduce posted speed limits    |  |
|                                     | within the zone to enhance pedestrian and     |  |
|                                     | vehicular safety                              |  |
| Occupancy Limit Enforcement         | Localities may establish and enforce          |  |
|                                     | occupancy limits on both public and private   |  |
|                                     | property within the Pop-Up Zone               |  |
| Cost Recovery from Event Organizers | Governments may recover all relevant costs    |  |
|                                     | and fees incurred from the designation and    |  |
|                                     | enforcement of the Pop-Up Zone directly from  |  |
|                                     | event organizers                              |  |
| Curfew for Unaccompanied Minors     | A curfew may be imposed for unaccompanied     |  |
|                                     | minors, beginning as early as 6:00 PM. Minors |  |
|                                     | must be accompanied by a parent or legal      |  |
|                                     | guardian during curfew hours                  |  |



## City of Virginia Beach Budget Requests

| Organization                        | Budget Language  | Amount Requested      |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Virginia Beach Fire Department      | Out of the first year of the budget, the City of Virginia Beach requests funding to support VBFD's Urban Search & Rescue Task Forces (VATF-2)  | \$1,775,000           |
| Virginia Beach Police<br>Department | Out of the first year of the budget, the City of Virginia Beach requests funding to support gun prevention violence, of which funding will go towards the City's Parks After Dark Program and to upgrade equipment needs that will support safety in neighborhoods | \$1,000,000           |
| Virginia Aquarium                   | Out of the first year of the budget, the City of Virginia Beach requests funding to support the Virginia Aquarium's Stranding Program  | \$250,000             |
| Virginia Aquarium                   | The City of Virginia Beach supports the creation of a General Assembly workgroup to evaluate the Virginia Aquarium's future renovation and expansion   | Language-only request |
| City Manager's Office               | Out of the first year of the budget, the City of Virginia Beach requests additional support for the renovation of Courthouse office space in Building 10   | \$250,000             |



## Empowering Local Governments: Funding Unfunded Mandates Through Partnership

## Background:

Local governments across Virginia are burdened with significant costs from both state and federal unfunded mandates. In Virginia Beach alone, these costs exceed \$251 million annually\*—equal to 30 cents of every 97-cent real estate tax dollar. Without new revenue sources, localities will face difficult choices: raise taxes or reduce essential services.

A key example is the Veterans Disabled Tax Relief Program, which reduces Virginia Beach's revenue by \$36 million annually. While the value of these mandates is undeniable, the financial burden is unsustainable.

Empowering local governments with targeted taxing authority will help meet unfunded mandate obligations without raising real estate taxes or cutting critical services. It's a fiscally responsible partnership that strengthens both the Commonwealth and local governments.

## Request:

The City of Virginia Beach requests that the General Assembly expand taxing authority to generate new, sustainable revenue streams.

#### **New Revenue Opportunities**

- 1. Cannabis Marketplace
  - 2025 Proposal: 2.5% local tax = \$20M/year by 2031
  - Proposed Increase: 5% local tax = \$40M/year by 2031
- 2. Skill Games
  - 2025 Proposal: 2.25% local share = \$15M/year
  - Proposed Increase: 5% local share = \$33.5M/year
- 3. I-Gaming
  - 15% state tax generates \$150M-\$400M/year
  - Proposed Local Tax:
    - $\circ$  5% = \$53M-\$133M/year
    - 2.5% = \$26.5M-\$66.75M/year

#### Existing Revenue Streams - Expand Local Share

- 4. Online Sports Gambling
- Current: 15% state tax = \$92M/year (no local share)
- Proposed: Add 5% local tax = \$30.7M/year

• Daily Fantasy Sports: If the General Assembly moves forward with regulating and taxing DFS similar to online sports gambling, then a local government tax should be included.

#### 5. Tobacco Products

- State revenue: \$225M/year from cigarettes and other tobacco taxes
- Localities capped at 40¢ per pack or their current rate; no authority to tax other tobacco products
- Proposals:
  - o Remove cap on local cigarette taxes
  - Add local tax on "other" tobacco that is equal to ½ state tax = \$27.5M/year
- 6. Modernizing the Sales Tax to Include Digital Downloads and Streaming

State revenue estimates: \$200M - \$500M

• 1% local tax estimate: \$40M - \$100M

## Summary of Local Government Revenue Potential:

| Scenario      | Annual Local Revenue |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Low Estimate  | \$198.2 million      |
| High Estimate | \$364.7 million      |



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