



2025 Legislative Agenda

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prince William County, VA Overview2
2025 Legislative Agenda for Prince William County, VA.....4
Transportation & Mobility.....5
Health, Wellbeing & Human Services7
Safe & Secure Community9
Resilient Economy.....12
Quality Education & Workforce Development14
Administration of Government15



Note: The 2025 Legislative Agenda was adopted November 2024 and amended December 2024

This agenda is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of all issues, but to serve as a guide to matters of concern to the Board of County Supervisors and the community at-large.
Prince William County looks forward to working with the county delegation to the Virginia General Assembly during the course of the 2025 session.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA OVERVIEW

Total Population

496,322

- 2nd most populous in VA
- 2020 Census: 482,204

PWCGTS, 2024 Q2

Diversity Index

73.7

- 10th most diverse in U.S.
- Most diverse in VA

Census Bureau

Average Household Size

3.03

- DC metro avg.: 2.67
- Among highest in DC area

U.S. Census Bureau

Median Household Income

\$123,193

- 27th highest in U.S.
- 9th highest in DC metro

U.S. Census Bureau

Median Age

35.8

- DC Metro Median: 37.7
- VA median: 38.7

of Students in Schools

89,945

- 2nd largest in VA
- 24th largest in U.S.

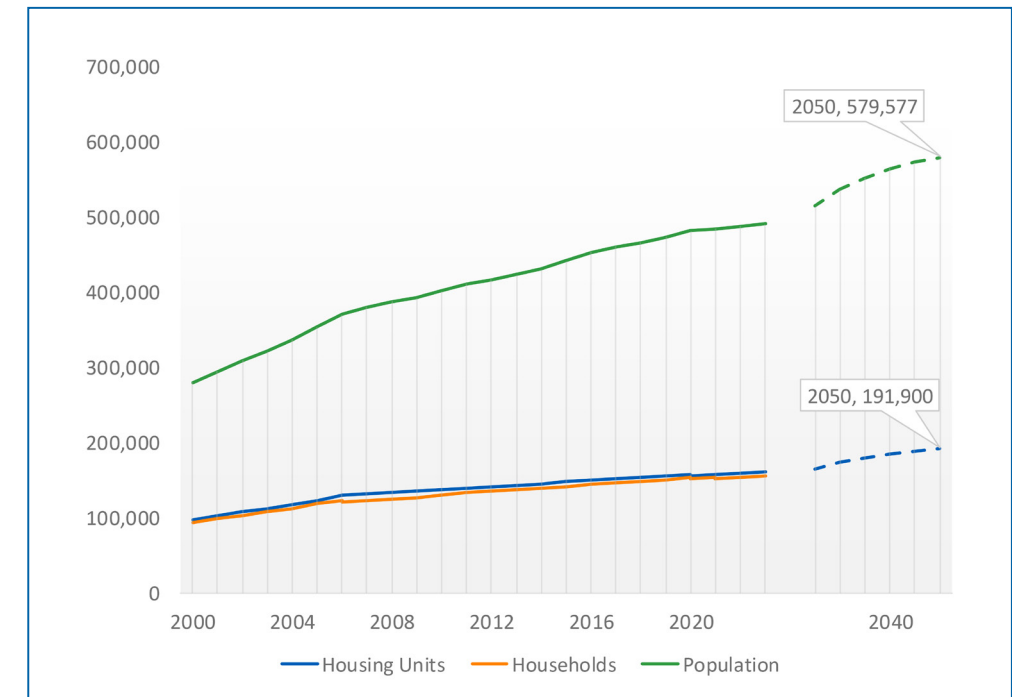


PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA OVERVIEW

Robust Population Growth

Population growth is continuing in the county, though it is moderating.

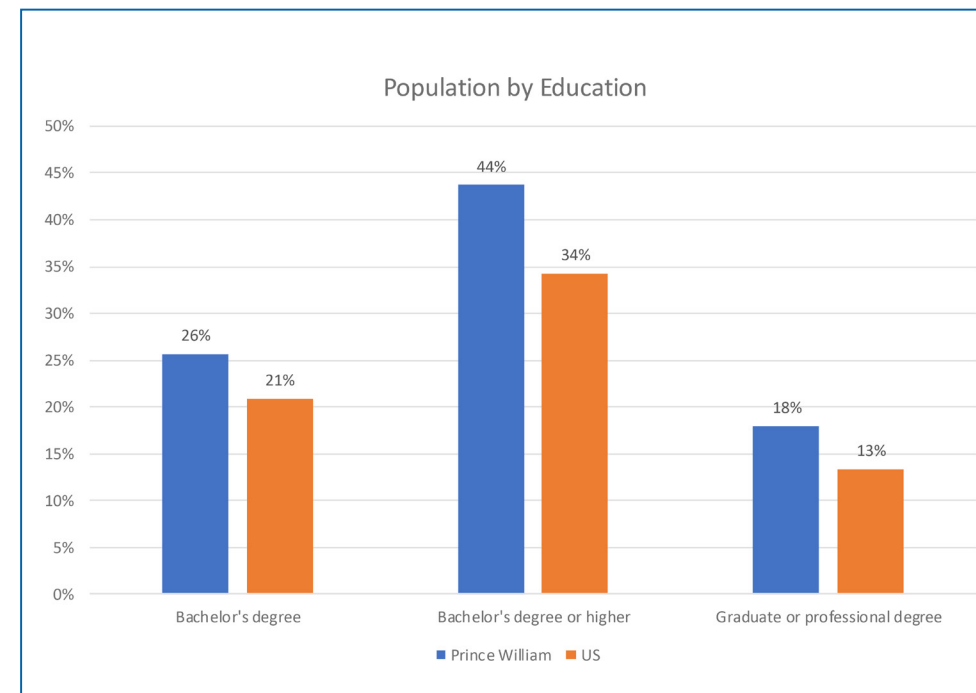
Span	Population growth
2000 – 2010	43%
2010 – 2020	20%
2020 – 2030	11%
2030 – 2040	5%
2040 – 2050	3%



Source: Prince William County demographer

Well-Educated County

44% of the county's population has a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 34% for the U.S.



Source: Most recent U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates.

Prince William County will support legislation, policies and appropriations measures that:

- Mitigate the burden of unfunded mandates on Prince William County.
- Provide resources that impact the most vulnerable in the community.
- Allow for opportunities to leverage resources in partnership with the Commonwealth to best meet the needs of the county.
- Enable Prince William County to attract new employers and support existing businesses already based in the county.
- Promote environmental stewardship that enhances the quality of life for the residents of Prince William County.
- Promote efficiency and transparency in government.
- Fully funds the standards for education and cost to compete.

Prince William County will oppose legislation, policies and appropriations measures that:

- Reduces funding or shifts the costs of shared services to the county from the Commonwealth for essential services.
- Attempts to preempt, restrict or limit local revenue raising authority or adversely impacts existing taxing authority (e.g. removing a funding source, such as TOT).
- Imposes additional fees on the county for measures that are clearly the responsibility of the Commonwealth.
- Infringes on the local authority and flexibility to control policies and procedures governing local land use matters, as land use decisions are local in character and should be determined and solved at the local level.
- Negatively impacts the current applicable legal standard(s) in any local tax matter.
- Compromises presumption of real or tangible property assessments.

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

Prince William County's Strategic Goal: Provide an accessible, comprehensive, multi-modal network of transportation infrastructure that improves local and regional mobility. Prince William County residents and business owners place a high value on mobility and transportation in the county by desiring an accessible, safe, multi-modal transportation network. In response, Prince William County government will seek to prioritize providing equitable access to multimodal transportation options in the community. Enhancing local, state, regional and federal partnerships must continue to allow the county to leverage and identify project funding. Congestion will be further reduced by prioritizing critical infrastructure projects that expand capacity that support both local and regional mobility and sustainable growth.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

➤ Enhanced Funding and Flexibility for Improving Roadway Safety for All Users

Prince William County supports increased dedicated state funding for traffic safety improvements and requests that the General Assembly encourage the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Virginia Department of Transportation to review current traffic calming and safety standards for state-maintained roadways and identify opportunities to increase flexibility in the guidelines that will enable localities to implement more safety improvements on transportation facilities to meet state goals of reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries.

Prince William County has numerous examples of projects that are local priorities for traffic safety improvements, but do not qualify under current standards. These include, but are not limited to:

- Roadways with high accidents.
- Rural roads with geometry limitations and/or high volumes.
- Collector roadways in neighborhoods and high pedestrian areas.
- Roadways with high levels of industrial traffic.

Current policies and standards also present obstacles to implementing safety improvements, including bicycle and pedestrian improvements, in high volume corridors such as interstate interchanges and bridge crossings. Prince William County supports initiatives that create a clear, streamlined and responsive approach to quickly implement safety improvements.

Prince William County supports increased dedicated funding through various programs to fund safety improvements:

- Additional funding for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
- New funding program for traffic calming and small safety improvements
- New program for high-cost pedestrian and bicycle crossings (such as pedestrian bridges and multiuse trails)

The county also supports the acceleration by VDOT of the guidance and implementation of the latest revision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as well as VACO's position of enhanced authority for counties to deploy and administer photo speed monitoring devices within their jurisdictions in the interest of public safety.

➤ Remove Ambiguous Language in Eminent Domain Legislation and Include Specific Language of Definition of Lost Access and Lost Profits

Changes to Virginia Code § 25.1-230.1 related to lost access and profits better enable businesses to claim lost profits, but the new language in the code provides no clear parameters for determining access and profit impacts and introduces significant uncertainty to the right-of-way process for both localities and property owners. The county has a well-established history of successfully working with private parties to resolve property acquisitions. Without clear standards for demonstrating lost profits, the county will have less information from private parties to consider in negotiations, which will likely hinder those negotiations and may increase the number of cases that require time-consuming and expensive litigation. Prince William County will continue to monitor and would support changes to remove ambiguous language in the Code and include specific language that provides clear definitions of lost access and lost profits.

► Restore NVTA Funding

Prince William County supports legislation that continues to restore NVTA's funding that was lost as part of House Bill 1539 and Senate Bill 856, passed in 2018. Restoration of the \$38.5 million in NVTA funding will ensure that Northern Virginia jurisdictions will have adequate funding to solve the region's transportation issues. Any restoration of NVTA funding should include state funding and revenue sources. In addition, Prince William County supports the protection of all revenues provided to NVTA through legislation dating back to 2013.



► Restore Funding Supplanted by Federal Pandemic Relief Funds

In 2022, the Commonwealth eliminated state sales and use tax on groceries resulting in a loss of \$741.4 million in dedicated transportation revenues in the Six-Year Improvement Program. This funding has been supplanted by federal pandemic relief funding in the years since but once this funding is expended, the state will face a significant long-term funding shortfall that can jeopardize transportation investment in the Commonwealth. Prince William County supports efforts to restore funding levels impacted by post-COVID policy measures and opposes appropriations or legislative steps which can adversely affect future transportation funding levels.

► Advancing the Enhancement and Expansion of Multimodal Public Transit

As the second largest and fourth fastest growing jurisdiction in the Commonwealth, enhancing and expanding multimodal transit options for the public is imperative to supporting population and land use growth and economic development, and meeting the county's adopted strategic goals for a sustainable, equitable and accessible multimodal transportation system. In 2020, the General Assembly approved budget language directing the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to conduct a feasibility study that analyzed and recommended a range of multimodal transit investments that would provide clear benefits to the county and the Commonwealth. Prince William County supports additional legislative action that will facilitate infrastructure improvements to support the study recommendations, as well as further enhance and expand public transit options for Prince William residents. Additionally, Prince William County supports legislative actions to support long-term, sustainable funding to meet the growing needs of public transit as directed by SJ28.

NEW ITEMS FOR THE 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

► PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS: Needs and Capacity Assessment for Tractor Trailer Parking on Major Corridors

Prince William County supports any proposed legislation that supports additional parking for tractor trailers. There is a growing need for this infrastructure expansion due to safety implications, productivity concerns, traffic issues and conflicts in residential and commercial areas. The shortage of safe, secure and accessible truck parking is a national issue identified by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. This shortage is particularly acute in Prince William County, which is flanked by I-95 on the east and I-66 on the west, and has resulted in significant truck parking in residential and mixed-use land areas. This not only creates safety concerns, but is a major obstacle to implementing the county's plans for walkable communities and urbanized multimodal roadways in Activity Centers that discourage heavy vehicular travel. However, the county recognizes the critical role of commercial vehicles to the local and regional economies and the growing demand for freight. The county also understands that the current remedy of restricting commercial vehicles parking only addresses one part of this multifaceted issue, and there is a need to provide dedicated commercial vehicle parking facilities and rest areas in appropriate locations, especially in proximity and along major freight corridors.

Therefore, Prince William County requests a resolution directing the Virginia Department of Transportation to conduct a needs and capacity assessment for tractor trailer parking on the I-66 and I-95 corridors.

► PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR: Funding Streams Dedicated to Local Transit

Prince William County will monitor and report on the Northern Virginia Growing Needs of Public Transit Joint Subcommittee, established by the General Assembly. Specifically, the purpose of the subcommittee is "To study long-term, sustainable, dedicated operations and capital funding as well as cost-containment controls and strategies" to ensure public transit systems can meet the growing needs of public transit in the Northern Virginia region.

HEALTH, WELLBEING & HUMAN SERVICES

Prince William County's Strategic Goal: Promote physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing through timely and equitable access to services and resources to enhance the quality of life for residents. Individuals' health and wellbeing can be determined by their opportunities and their environment. Access to services for all residents using a holistic model that connects residents searching for services that meet their needs when they are at their most vulnerable or at risk of vulnerability is essential for health and wellbeing. Behavioral, mental and physical health are interrelated and require person-centered responses due to the uniqueness of each individual's situation. Living in the community versus institutional living, reducing stigma around seeking services, supports and treatment, increasing access to insurance and public benefits due to low income, having food security, and navigating toward stable housing are all keys to community wellbeing.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

► Continued Support for a Prince William Regional Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) for Adults and Youth

The CRC for adults and youth in Prince William County is a key component to a robust behavioral health crisis system that will provide a place to go for those most vulnerable and in need of behavioral health crisis services. Further, the CRC will reduce dependency on state hospital beds, reduce the number of residents placed outside of the Northern Virginia region for inpatient services, reduce the impact on public safety staff who spend significant hours waiting for individuals under emergency custody and temporary detention orders, and reduce the impact on local hospital emergency rooms.

Prince William County will monitor and advocate for legislation that advances the behavioral health agenda of the county and Commonwealth.

Further, for the CRC, the Commonwealth is expected to solicit a waiver from the "Institutions for Mental Diseases" designation from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure the maximum Medicaid reimbursement rate for the county facility. The county requests the assistance of each member of our state and federal delegation during this process.

► Prince William County Juvenile Services Facility

Based upon a 2020 study, a plan was developed to address a community-based continuum of programs and services for youth (and their families) involved with or at risk of being involved with the juvenile justice system. This group developed the Juvenile Justice Improvement Project (JJIP) Report. The JJIP report included five recommendations:

- 1) develop a community-based continuum of programs and services that foster restorative justice policies and practices;
- 2) create community-based, less secure placement options;
- 3) establish youth and family reception centers;
- 4) develop and improve cross-system collaboration among juvenile justice stakeholders; and
- 5) update and improve information technology capabilities.

To address these needs, Prince William County is currently in the planning stages for the development of a new juvenile justice services facility. The county supports the development of such a facility to serve the needs of juveniles in the community and will monitor the legislative recommendations on juvenile justice services by the Virginia Commission on Youth, and any related evaluation by the General Assembly or Administration on consolidation of such facilities.



► Address the Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis

A national workforce shortage has left behavioral health and developmental disability treatment providers struggling to meet the increased demand for services. While demand for services is growing, the ability to recruit and retain qualified employees has become increasingly difficult. The pandemic exacerbated the already significant workforce shortage. In January 2022, the Virginia Health Care Foundation completed an Assessment of the Capacity of Virginia's Licensed Behavioral Health (BH) Workforce. This assessment revealed that a significant number of BH professionals are at or near retirement age, and that despite Virginia's 40 graduate-level BH programs graduating nearly 800 individuals annually, the number who go on to licensure in Virginia is insufficient and does not even maintain the already inadequate supply of BH professionals.



We support the Northern Virginia CSBs request for sufficient funding for an increase in salaries that is comparative to the market rate and demonstrates the value of the work being done and funding to assist in the repayment of student loans in exchange for a commitment to work in the public sector. We further support the Northern Virginia CSBs request for a legislative approach to decreasing the regulatory/administrative burdens through expediting credentialing and decreasing regulatory requirements.

► Increase Community Capacity for Services

There does not exist within Prince William County a residential facility for youth substance-use disorders offering withdrawal management and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). MAT for youth is very limited within the county and region. Community Services supports the Northern Virginia CSBs request to increase funding in order to build community capacity within Region 2 for 24/7 specialized residential programs, particularly for youth with a substance use disorder.

► Replace the Virginia Case Management System

Prince William County supports the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and the Virginia League of Social Service (VLSS) to request funding to replace the Virginia Case Management System (VaCMS), which is the state system used for determining eligibility for public assistance. It does not work well and is often "down." Prince William County supports the VDSS and VLSS language to require a thorough market check in accordance with Virginia Information Technology Agency requirements before starting development of the system. Due to the multiple and extenuating problems with VaCMS, Prince William County has spent in the past \$884,234 in operational needs pay (overtime) and temp staff costs to help with the benefits process since everything has to be scanned and inputted twice.

► Solutions Addressing Lack of Available State Hospital Beds

Prince William County supports solutions that address the lack of available state hospital beds for people in a mental health crisis that will enable all state hospitals to receive admissions of individuals subject to temporary detention orders without delays.

NEW ITEMS FOR THE 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

► PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS: Access to Telehealth Services

Prince William County supports enhanced access and utilization of telehealth services, whereas even in a post-pandemic environment, such services assist with access to health care services and assessments for many of the community's most vulnerable.

SAFE & SECURE COMMUNITY

Prince William County's Strategic Goal: Provide a safe and secure community through prevention, readiness and service excellence. Prince William County residents desire to live in a safe community where they feel secure in knowing they will be protected from harm, treated equitably and provided resources that will assist them in continuing to thrive. Prince William County considers the safety and security of its residents a top priority and is forward thinking in meeting the challenges of this goal. Building a positive rapport, establishing an environment where everyone feels heard, strengthening relationships and collaboration between public safety agencies, county stakeholders and county residents are the building blocks to a safer community.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

► Adequate Funding for Pretrial Services and Local Probation Services

Alternatives to incarceration such as local probation and pretrial services should be funded equitably in Virginia. Additionally, an updated funding formula and process should be established per the Crime Commission's recommendation in 2016 to ensure alternatives to incarceration are available locally and appropriately funded consistently throughout the state. This is necessary to assure a fair and equitable criminal justice system. Recent sessions of the General Assembly have recognized the value of these services and provided modest and needed increases in state funding.

► Preserve State Assistance to Local Police Departments (599 Funding)

The state created a program of financial assistance to local police departments (HB599). The Code of Virginia provides that "599" funding is to increase at the same rate as growth in state General Fund revenue collections. Recent appropriations for this priority should be preserved by the General Assembly.

► Alternative Transportation for Temporary Detention Orders

Prince William County law enforcement spend an inordinate amount of time transporting persons in crisis to a mental health hospital on a temporary detention order (TDO). Transporting to a hospital outside of the county requires two officers, which hence removes them from their primary responsibilities. Transports (roundtrip) can take between two and 14 hours. The contracted provider for the Commonwealth has staffing limitations and are unable to handle all transports for persons deemed appropriate. Prince William County supports the General Assembly allocating the needed resources to implement the statewide Alternative Transportation Plan, without any added local funding burden.

NEW ITEMS FOR THE 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

► PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS: Work Group to Look at Damage Threshold Amount in Report by Law-Enforcement Officer Investigating Accident

Prince William County requests a workgroup to examine and provide recommendations on increasing the damage threshold in § 46.2-373. Currently, the threshold is set at \$1,500 and has not been raised since 2009. Most minor vehicle accidents (without injury) do not require a police report. Increasing the threshold will take into account the modern costs of vehicle damage and also alleviate the resource burden on police departments.

► PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR: Regarding Use of Non-Sworn Personnel and/or Cadets

Given the interest of the Prince William County Police Department in allowing Cadets (or non-sworn personnel in certain roles, such as community safety ambassador) to take accident reports that do not involve or require additional enforcement actions or arrest, the county will review the anticipated budget committees study on this subject. Currently, only Police Officers are allowed to do so. Many jurisdictions outside of Virginia are allowing non-sworn personnel to take reports in specific circumstances that do not require additional police action, which frees up time for police officers to do other needed duties.

► PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS: Amend Virginia Retirement System to Allow for Rehiring of Law Enforcement Retirees

Currently, the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) does not allow for law enforcement retirees to work full-time in a VRS covered position, except if the retirees work for the school system as school security officers. Prince William County is requesting that VRS be amended to allow retirees to return full-time without contributing to VRS on a secondary position. This would be a huge benefit to the Police Department, as they will be able to utilize personnel who is already trained, informed and familiar with the community.

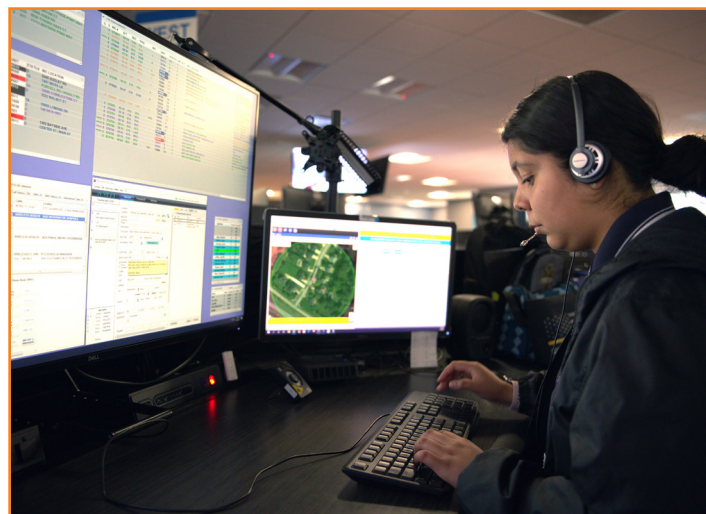
► **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS: Reclassification of Public Safety Telecommunicators to a Protected Service Category**

In October 2023, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) conducted a study on the Eligibility of Public Safety Occupation for Enhanced Retirement Benefits. Amongst their findings, the commission confirmed 911 dispatchers play an integral and invaluable role in public safety; have high and excessive psychological demands; and hold, and fulfill, an enormous communal responsibility.

There is a 30 percent turnover rate for 9-1-1 employees, with 30-50 percent vacancy rates in many PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Point). 9-1-1 dispatchers get a top ranking as one of the most stressful occupations, with 49 percent of those dispatchers attributing their work in emergency communications as contributing toward their depression.

Nineteen states have already passed similar recognitions of 9-1-1 telecommunicators as being First Responders. These include, but are not inclusive, of, Maryland, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, New York and West Virginia.

Ultimately, a reclassification of 911 professionals would give call takers greater equity in terms of benefits and access to resources, including mental health support.



► **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS: The Commonwealth Fully Funding the Offices of Constitutional Officers**

“The mission of the Commonwealth’s Compensation Board is to determine a reasonable budget for the participation of the Commonwealth toward the total cost of office operations for Constitutional Officers and to assist those officers and their staff through automation, training and other means to improve efficiencies and to enhance the level of services provided to the citizens of Virginia.”

Over the past several years, funding from the state has not kept up with the growth of these offices, requiring additional funding from the localities. This creates a financial burden not only for the localities, but also for the Constitutional Officers who cannot fully fund the operational needs of their office. Prince William County supports the Commonwealth fully funding the total cost of office operations for the Constitutional Officers and not creating additional financial burdens on the localities.

► **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS: Assistance with Drug Supply Chain Security Transition**

For the past 50 years, the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System (FRS) has maintained a relationship with area hospitals in which one-to-one replacement of medication is allowed, meaning when a medication is dispensed by FRS personnel, it is replenished from hospital supplies. Effective November 27, 2024, Virginia hospital systems have indicated their intent to no longer supply any emergency-controlled medications to their fire and rescue partners.

New Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) regulations, and subsequent actions by Virginia hospitals, have compelled fire and emergency medical service (EMS) agencies to directly manage their controlled substances due to increased oversight and accountability requirements. These regulations mandate stricter tracking, storage and administration protocols for controlled substances to prevent misuse and diversion. To comply with these mandates, agencies must develop comprehensive strategic plans that address key drivers such as enhanced security measures, meticulous record-keeping, and regular audits. The DEA requirements include maintaining accurate inventories, ensuring secure storage and documenting each instance of drug administration. Additionally, agencies in Virginia must adhere to the Virginia Board of Pharmacy’s (VABOP) regulations, which require strict oversight, procurement, storage and dispensation of controlled substances.

Implementation of a pharmacy program that is compliant with all federal and state regulations will result in a Fiscal Year 2025 cost of \$2.1 million and ongoing cost of \$800,000 for the county. To help address the impacts of this transition, the county is requesting the following:

1) Security at Fire and Rescue Stations - The Virginia Board of Pharmacy does not have a category for “Fire and Rescue Station” and has taken the position that Fire and Rescue stations storing Class II-V

narcotics must follow the same security requirements as full pharmacies. This is placing an enormous financial and logistical burden on localities, as the quantities of medications on the schedule at these locations are minimal. To address this issue, direct the Board of Pharmacy to update regulations to create a category for Fire and Rescue stations and removing the requirement for a security system for the entire room the narcotic safes are stored in and allowing video monitoring systems and DEA compliant containment systems (which require their own monitoring) in locked rooms in its place. This would remove a huge barrier to narcotic storage at more than half the county’s fire and rescue stations, due to the requirement that the storage area is fully alarmed while personnel are not retrieving medications.

2) EMS Regulations - Direct the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services to change its regulations, allowing volunteer companies to keep their names on their apparatus. The change to 12VAC5-31-790. EMS vehicle letter restrictions and specifications should read as follows: *A.3. Combination fire and rescue systems operating under a single EMS license, with established policies for identifying both the EMS permit holder and the member department, may have the member department logo and lettering appear larger than the EMS vehicle permit holder.*

3) Representation on the Board of Pharmacy - Direct the Board of Pharmacy to include a representative from a local government fire and rescue organization, as now local fire and rescue agencies will be the largest pharmacy organization in the state.

4) Budget Amendment - Request a budget amendment as a Secure Pharmacy Transition Fund, with a minimum of \$25 million, to help jurisdictions statewide in implementing this required transition of drug supplies.

5) Additional time to implement pharmacy programs - Currently, all hospitals in Virginia have set a deadline of Nov. 27, 2024, to end the current drug box exchange program. An extension of this date to May 1, 2025, would give local governments another six (6) months to test and field their programs. Our federal and state legislators could provide this relief by directing the FDA and VABOP to delay enforcement of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act and the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act until this date.



RESILIENT ECONOMY

Prince William County's Strategic Goal: Diversify, support, and expand the local economy to ensure equitable economic growth through innovative business/talent attraction, promotion and investment. A resilient economy for Prince William County improves the economic well-being of the community, creates and maintains jobs, expands the commercial tax base and enhances the quality of life for residents. The county encourages business development, redevelopment, business retention, expansion, investment and workforce development. Further, the county attracts business investment by focusing on its targeted industries while aligning with its Comprehensive Plan.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

▶ **George Mason University Science and Technology Campus**

Prince William County supports the funding for George Mason University in-state undergraduates at the average per student level of doctoral institutions in Virginia, which will help the SciTech campus, and GMU as a whole, further its goal to be an economic engine for Northern Virginia.

▶ **Broadband Availability**

Prince William County supports the expansion of broadband access across Prince William County. This effort will include a continuous review of opportunities with state and federal programs to improve access to modern broadband infrastructure for the citizens of Prince William County.



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE

▶ **Cannabis Legislation**

Whereas there are significant community factors associated with the legalization of cannabis, Prince William County will closely monitor and report on all legislation associated with this policy measure. Given the financial implications with forthcoming retail developments, land use, regulatory, permitting, public safety, agricultural and human resources issues, all legislation pertaining to cannabis legalization will be reviewed for county impact.

▶ **Gaming Legislation**

With the release of a report by JLARC on gaming in Virginia, and given the existing and prospective projects in the gaming space with anticipated significant economic impact for the community and county, Prince William County will actively monitor gaming legislation initiated during the 2025 session, including legislation and regulation addressing "skilled gaming."

▶ **Housing and Land Use Policies**

Prince William County will closely monitor and report on all legislation from the Governor and General Assembly addressing affordable housing, including legislation stemming from the JLARC study on affordable housing. In addition, the county will track all legislation pertaining to local authority, land use planning and housing matters, correlating all bills to the county's current land use, planning policies and regulations.

NEW ITEMS FOR THE 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

▶ **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS: Amend Language of § 15.2-2304 of the Code of Virginia, relating to affordable housing; local zoning ordinance authority; comprehensive plan, to Include Prince William County in Affordable Housing Legislation**

Prince William County seeks legislation that would authorize the county to provide for an affordable housing dwelling unit program by amending the zoning ordinance of such locality. Current law restricts such authorization to counties with an urban county executive form of government or county manager plan

of government and certain other named localities. As the county is working on an affordable dwelling unit ordinance, being able to use § 15.2-2304 would provide the most flexibility and options in implementing the county's ordinance. Therefore, Prince William County is requesting amending the language to specifically include Prince William County, if not all localities, to § 15.2-2304.

▶ **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS: Amend Language to Expand Use of Workforce Training Funds**

In cooperation with Prince William County Facilities and Fleet Management, the county seeks new language expanding the use of apprenticeship and workforce training funds appropriated in 2024, so that it may also be utilized for building trades training.

▶ **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS: Military Communities Partnership**

Given the significant economic impact of the Marine Corps Base Quantico in and around Prince William County, the county supports policy and appropriations measures that advance this partnership, especially in the areas of infrastructure, workforce development, military families support services and related needs.

▶ **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE: Data Center Studies and Proposed Legislation**

The Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) is expected to release a report in December 2024 that addresses the data center industry. Prince William County staff have been interviewed by JLARC staff, and the report is expected to result in the introduction of numerous bills and address legislation carried over from the 2024 session. Given the economic development impact the industry has in Prince William County, the county will closely monitor and report on all legislation affecting this sector of the county economy, and specifically monitor and address any legislation that pertains to ambiguous language impacting real property valuations for data centers.



QUALITY EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Prince William County's Strategic Goal: Provide quality and equitable education for all learners and develop and attract a well-trained talented workforce. Prince William County values a world class education for all, from our youngest students in the PWC schools on through to all ages. While learning and education enrich the individuals, they also enrich the community attracting families seeking to provide their children with world class education, by creating skilled workers, and informed citizens that form a talent pool that can draw businesses to our area. The Board of County Supervisors, through collaboration with the school system, institutions of higher education, and local businesses can enhance the educational and training experiences throughout the county for all residents. This is achieved by expanding information about and access to existing programming, identifying and removing barriers to participation, and developing new opportunities for job training.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

► Educational Funding Priorities

- 1) Support full funding for K-12 education, to include increased state funding for operational and capital needs of Prince William County Schools.
- 2) Support full state funding for the actual cost of meeting the Standards of Quality (SOQ) requirements, not just the minimum assumed to be necessary by the state.
- 3) Support fully funding the Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA) for PWCS support staff, which will ensure that local funding will go toward meeting the needs of the schools, rather than backfilling state reductions or requirements.
- 4) Prince William County believes the General Assembly should address the findings of the most recent JLARC report, which highlights the underfunding of the Commonwealth's K-12 public schools. The county will closely monitor the work of the Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Funding.
- 5) Prince William County supports a request from Prince William County Public Schools to repeal the support cap ratio, which was implemented in FY10 as a short-term measure to offset revenue shortfall and reduce the state's share of funding public education during the recession. As a result, statewide funding for more than 12,900 support positions was eliminated.

► Higher Education

Prince William County recognizes the role of higher education and continuing education needs within the community. To that end, the county supports advancement of programs and facilities needed by Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University to address the higher education needs of county residents.

Specifically, Prince William County will support efforts by George Mason University to improve their ability to compete for national and internationally acclaimed faculty and staff, by the Commonwealth providing the resources needed to attract and retain staff at all levels.

Further, Prince William County will support efforts by Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) in seeking increased investment in workforce funding with a focus on the unprecedented needs for credentialed workers in healthcare, manufacturing, technology and skilled trades.



ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT

Prince William County's Strategic Vision: Prince William County is a diverse community striving to be healthy, safe and caring with a thriving economy and a protected natural environment.

The county supports efficiency and transparency in government, and pledges to monitor and review all legislation that impacts county administrative functions, impacts county fiscal standing, and has implications for county employees and management.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

► Public Notice of Advertisements and Procurement

The county should be able to publish notices of meetings, county activities, land use changes, procurement and other items important to the citizens by means other than hard copy/print newspaper publication to ensure the most visibility to the community. The General Assembly should comprehensively update the publication provisions of state law for local governments to allow the county to communicate with the citizens it serves in efficient means, designed to reach the greatest number of recipients. This could include electronic notices on newspaper websites, instead of only hard copy, and should include prominent placement of such notices on the county's website, social media dissemination and emails to citizens who register for such notification.

► Due Diligence of FOIA Legislation

Prince William County supports the position that any changes to the Freedom of Information Act should be forwarded to the FOIA Advisory Council for review and recommendations prior to General Assembly consideration or enactment. The county also supports efforts to recover its actual, reasonable costs incurred in responding to a FOIA request pursuant to its adopted FOIA policy.

► Opioid Abatement Authority Composition and Framework

Prince William County supports the current Opioid Abatement Authority composition and framework, which was established after a lengthy, thoughtful and deliberative process, including input from numerous state and local government stakeholders. The Authority and its staff are beginning their critically important work, and the county and other localities are confident that the Authority and staff will do so efficiently, effectively and in the best interest of Virginia and county residents, and therefore, believe no changes are necessary at this time.

NEW ITEMS FOR THE 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

► PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS: Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission Study

Prince William County supports findings from the December 2024 Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) study which recommends legislation that would:

- Expressly authorize local governments to require and consider water use estimates for proposed data center developments;
- Expressly authorize local governments to require sound modeling studies for proposed data center developments;
- Expressly authorize local governments to establish and enforce maximum allowable sound levels for operational data center facilities using alternative low frequency metrics and zoning ordinances; and
- Expressly authorize local governments to require and consider power load demand estimates for proposed data center developments.

In addition, the county supports legislation which seeks to protect utility ratepayers from bearing the costs of infrastructure needs driven solely by the data center industry, as well as, address the risk of generation and transmission infrastructure costs being stranded with existing customers.

➤ **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS: Allow Tax Policy Adjustments and Exemptions for Small Businesses**

Prince William County staff will work with the administration and delegation to determine possible policy options that would allow exemptions/waivers for certain small businesses from the county's Computer and Peripheral Tax.

In addition, Prince William County supports the review and the latitude to adjust tax rates to maximize the level of effectiveness and equity across industries.

The county will closely monitor and approach these issues through the Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy and the Joint Subcommittee on Tax Preferences.

➤ **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE: Local Government Operations**

Prince William County will monitor and report on all legislation affecting procurement practices, workforce engagement and tax policy.

➤ **PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE: Environmental Sustainability**

Prince William County will monitor and report on legislation affecting environmental stewardship, including issues surrounding water quality, including the impact of PFAS, salinity, and microplastics, in addition to those issues contained in the Virginia Association of Counties environment, energy and land use platform.

In addition, the county supports the following in order to meet the goals as identified in the county's Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan:

- Advocating for a low-carbon building code/more aspirational codes and vote on energy code updates.
- Advocating for a study on the barriers to community choice aggregation program adoption in Virginia.
- Advocating for state electrification incentives for utilities and the expansion of electrical infrastructure to accommodate growing building and vehicle electrification; and removing barriers to solar installation such as the Dominion Solar Interconnection Fees for mid-sized projects.

In addition, the county supports the following efforts to align with the work of the Trails and Blueways Council:

- Increase state trail funding to advance the development of trails that are of regional significance, including a trail to connect the I-66 trail in Prince William County across Bull Run to Fairfax County and to complete sections of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.
- Evaluate means to protect trails for the use and enjoyment by residents and travelers alike.

Board of County Supervisors 2024-2027

Deshundra Jefferson, Chair At-Large

Kenny A. Boddy, Vice Chair, Occoquan District

Tom Gordy, Brentsville District

Yesli Vega, Coles District

Bob Weir, Gainesville District

Victor S. Angry, Neabsco District

Andrea O. Bailey, Potomac District

Margaret Angela Franklin, Woodbridge District

Prince William County's Delegation to the 2025 General Assembly

Senators

Jeremy S. McPike, 29th District

Danica A. Roem, 30th District

Jennifer D. Carroll Foy, 33rd District

House of Delegates

Roza A. "J.R." Henson, Jr., 19th District

Michelle E. Lopes Maldonado, 20th District

Josh E. Thomas, 21st District

Ian T. Lovejoy, 22nd District

Candi P. Mundon King, 23rd District

Luke E. Torian, 24th District

Briana D. Sewell, 25th District

Prince William County, Virginia

Christopher Shorter

County Executive

Office of Executive Management

One County Complex Court

Prince William, Virginia 22192-9201

Glynn Loope

Legislative Affairs Liaison

Office of Executive Management

One County Complex Court

Prince William, Virginia 22192-9201

gloope@pwcgov.org

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

JAMES J. MCCOART
ADMINISTRATION CENTER



@pwcgov

pwcva.gov