

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA – 2017
(Adopted October 24, 2016)**

1. Transportation Funding – support legislation to establish stable and consistent revenues to meet Virginia’s long-term transportation infrastructure needs and to oppose any legislation or regulations that would require the transfer of responsibility to the counties for construction, maintenance or operation of new and existing secondary roads.
2. Equal Taxing Authority – Eliminate the distinction in the taxing authority of Virginia’s cities and towns versus counties and provide counties with all of the same provision to establish local excise taxes, including the cigarette tax and the meals tax. *In October 2016, Northampton County joined with Wythe County in its efforts relative to cigarette tax, and with York County in its efforts relative to meals tax.*
3. Local Government Revenues and State Tax Reform – oppose legislation to eliminate or reduce specific local tax revenues, including local business taxes such as the Machinery & Tools Tax.
4. State Funding for Compensation Board– support full restoration of state funding for the Compensation Board and restore its required funding for the constitutionally mandated offices of Commissioner of Revenue, County Treasurer, Sheriff, Clerk of Courts and Commonwealth Attorney.
5. State Funding for Education – support full restoration of state funding for the Standards of Quality (SOQ).
6. Support legislation to revise public hearing notification provisions to include a county government run website as a legal posting method, similar to a local paper of record.
7. Support legislation to extend in the imposition and collection of the local transient occupancy tax to state owned parks and campgrounds that provide for lodging.
8. Support legislation to require mandatory certification from the local treasurer that real estate taxes are current prior to the sale and recordation of sale of real property.
9. Support the Port of Virginia Economic and Infrastructure Development Zone Grant Program, which would create an immediate increase of additional workforce, financial capital and infrastructure.
10. Oppose the privatization of on-site sewage programs, currently regulated by the Health Department.
11. Fully fund the Line of Duty Act (LODA) obligations and return LODA to a state program. This is a benefit for Public Safety employees initially established and fully funded by the state and

were shifted to the locality in 2013 without any consultation with the localities over program cost or responsibilities.

12. Eliminate the mandate associated with the Virginia Retirement System Hybrid Retirement Plan that requires localities to offer short-term disability insurance coverage. The county provides appropriate leave coverage through our leave and benefit policies and the provision of any supplemental short-term disability insurance coverage should be the option of the County and not a mandate from the State.
13. Clarify the Stormwater Act for localities that have opted out from administering this act and have deferred to VDEQ to handle that responsibility that they are truly OUT of administration of the Stormwater Act. Recently, VDEQ through regulatory interpretation has indicated that Chesapeake Bay Act localities are responsible for addressing the provisions of the Stormwater Act for Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Land Disturbing Activities between 2500 sq. ft. and 1 acre, i.e., the full enforcement of the Stormwater Act for projects under 1 acre land disturbance area, (LDA). Most all of the project in Northampton County are under 1 Acre LDA This change in the administrative code was approved by the State Water Control Board in 2015 **after** the clear legislative intent of providing relief for localities from administering storm water control was made by the Assembly.
14. Eliminate the mandate associated with the Chesapeake Bay Act requiring localities to develop and oversee a septic pump-out notification program to homeowners located in the Chesapeake Bay Act overlay district. Initial permitting of septic tanks is performed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). VDEQ is requiring localities to enforce the five year clean-out provision of the law for any property in the Chesapeake Bay Protection Areas (all of Northampton County). Northampton County recommends that this task be performed by the permitting agency, VDH. The requirements for this unfunded mandate are contained in the Virginia Administrative Code (9VAC25-830-130) #7.
15. Eliminate the mandate associated with the Chesapeake Bay Act which requires any land upon which agricultural activities are being conducted to have a soil and water quality conservation assessment conducted. The requirements for this unfunded mandate are contained in the Virginia Administrative Code (9VAC25-830-130) Item#8.
16. Oppose any recommendation or effort to reverse or amend the action taken by the 2014 General Assembly in affording to Virginia's counties and citizens the statutory right to 'Opt Out' of administering the Virginia Stormwater Management Program, and request that the Stormwater Advisory Group support and seek implementation of the current law. Additionally, requests that the Stormwater Advisory Group recognize and recommend that the statutory right to "Opt Out" be applied to all localities equally such that the Chesapeake Bay localities are not required to administer a local Stormwater Program for land disturbance projects between 2,500 square feet and 1 acre.