



County of Albemarle
Board of Supervisors

2026 Legislative Program

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Virginia Code Amendments

1. *Enable localities to enforce the Virginia Landlord-Tenant Act*
2. *Expand authority to use photo speed monitoring devices*
3. *Enable a referendum on a local option one-cent sales tax for school division capital projects*

Budget Amendment

4. *State funding for Biscuit Run Park– Monacan Indian Nation Tribute Park Connector Greenway ADA Trail project*

Virginia Code Amendments

1. Enable localities to enforce the Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Act

Summary

Amend [Virginia Code § 55.1-1259](#) to enable localities to enforce the Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Act.

Description

Enabling localities to enforce the Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Act would allow them to address material noncompliance by a landlord with the rental agreement, or with any provision of the law, that if not promptly corrected, would constitute a fire hazard or serious threat to the life, health, or safety of tenants or occupants.

Rationale

This initiative would allow localities to directly enforce the Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Act on behalf of residents who may otherwise lack the resources to remedy legal issues associated with rental housing. Legal services for tenants seeking to address lease violations by the landlord or health and safety issues not covered by the Uniform Statewide Building Code can be prohibitively expensive or in short supply. Enabling localities to enforce provisions of the Virginia Residential Landlord Tenant Act would enable County residents to access services otherwise unavailable and assist them in addressing material lease violations.

2. Expand authority to use photo speed monitoring devices

Summary

Amend [Virginia Code §§ 46.2-882](#) and [46.2-882.1](#) to enable the use of photo speed monitoring devices on segments of secondary roads where speeding has been identified as a problem.

Description

The enabling authority would be implemented by ordinance and would apply only to segments of secondary roads having posted speeds of 35 miles per hour or higher with speeding, crash, and fatality data supporting the need for additional speed enforcement. In addition, the selected road segments would be required to have signs posted informing drivers that such devices are being used to monitor speed.

Rationale

This initiative would give localities the option to use photo speed monitoring devices as an enforcement tool on designated segments of secondary roads where speeding is prevalent. Using such devices would promote safety both of the public, by providing broader enforcement of speed limits, and of law enforcement officers, who are otherwise making traffic stops on potentially dangerous road segments (e.g., segments without shoulders or with limited sight distance). Additionally, the use of technology where human intervention is unnecessary would allow law enforcement officers to do other critical police work.

3. Enable a referendum on a local option one-cent sales tax for school division capital projects

Summary

Amend Title 58.1, Subtitle I, Chapter 6 of the Code of Virginia to enable Albemarle County to conduct a referendum on an additional 1% retail sales tax dedicated to school division capital projects.

Description

Amend either (i) [Virginia Code § 58.1-602](#) to designate Albemarle County, in addition to other previously designated cities and counties, as a “qualifying locality” with such authority, or (ii) [Virginia Code § 58.1-605.1](#) to provide such authority to all cities and counties. In either case, such a tax would require approval in a local referendum and would be subject to expiration no more than 20 years after the governing body’s initiation of the referendum.

Rationale

The County lacks a dedicated funding mechanism for school construction and renovation projects, which are largely funded presently by existing tax revenues and proceeds of bond issues. Additional taxing authority would generate revenues dedicated solely to school division capital projects, providing further fiscal capacity and flexibility to the County.

Budget Amendment

4. Provide state funding for Biscuit Run Park – Monacan Indian Nation Tribute Park Connector Greenway ADA Trail project

Summary

Include \$1,480,000 in the state budget to fund a one-mile, accessible trail the state-owned and locally-developed Biscuit Run Park that connects the Park’s western entrance to the newly-opened Monacan Indian Nation Tribute Park, within the Southwood Mobile Home Park redevelopment project.

Description

Biscuit Run Park is currently under construction by Albemarle County. The Park land is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and leased to the County for a 99-year term. The Park’s master plan includes a paved circulator trail that runs the perimeter of the Park’s 1,200-acres. The County opened the Park in Fall 2024 with the first phase of park access and the first section of trails, at an estimated cost of more than \$6 million. Other master plan elements, including the Park circulator trail, will be developed over several years and based on local budget capacity. The County seeks an investment of \$1,480,000 to construct a segment of the planned accessible circulator trail to connect the Southwood neighborhood’s

new Monacan Indian Nation Tribute Park to Biscuit Run Park. The trail segment requires two small pedestrian bridges to cross streams in the area as well as raised boardwalk sections that will significantly reduce wetland impacts and enhance resiliency of the trail in the long-term.

Rationale

The land comprising Biscuit Run Park was acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2009, initially for development—with no timeline—as a state park. In 2018, the state leased the land to the County for a 99-year term for development, use and occupancy as a County park. Phase 1A of the Park, opened in December 2024, provides access to 1,200 acres and draws users from Central Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley, and beyond. Design and construction are underway in 2025 for athletic fields, stream restoration, a maintenance building, additional trails, and a mountain biking pump track facility. A capital contribution by the state would accelerate the completion and availability of park amenities at this regional recreational facility, fulfilling a need contemplated when the state initially acquired the land.

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The following high-level legislative principles supplement the County's specific legislative priorities and provide guidance for staff and legislators in determining whether the County supports certain legislation.

In addition to supporting the legislative programs of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO), the Virginia Municipal League (VML), and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), Albemarle County also supports legislation that:

- Advances the County's Strategic and Comprehensive Plans
- Expands local authority related to land use and taxation
- Provides adequate state support for state-mandated activities, including public education
- Promotes environmental sustainability

Specifically, Albemarle County encourages legislators to:

Broadband and the Internet

- Support legislation that promotes accessible and affordable broadband for all County residents, either through state funding or expanded enabling authority.

Economic Development

- Support legislation that furthers Albemarle County's economic development strategic plan goals, including state support for specific economic development projects and regulatory flexibility.

Growth Management, Environmental Protection, Land Use, and Transportation

- Oppose legislation that erodes local authority over land use matters;
- Support legislation that enhances local authority or provides funding related to environmental sustainability and transportation, including transit and multi-modal improvements.

Health and Human Services

- Support legislation that benefits community members or enhances the ability of local Departments of Social Services to better perform their work.

Housing

- Support legislation that promotes the production and preservation of affordable housing, whether through state support or enhanced enabling authority.

Local Government Finance

- Support equal taxing authority of cities and counties, funding for state-supported services, and fully funding state mandates.

Public Safety

- Support legislation that promotes the safety of residents, including authority over traffic regulation, and the safety initiatives of the Albemarle County Police and Fire Rescue Departments.

Solid Waste

- Support legislation that **reduces** waste generation, improves recycling and composting rates, reduces litter, and increases diversion of materials sent to landfills.