

Goochland County 2017 Legislative Agenda

Priority Requests – County

1. Transportation of Sludge

Goochland County requests legislation to regulate the safety of farm vehicles transporting fertilizers, chemicals, sewage sludge and industrial sludge. In addition, the County requests legislation to regulate the time of transport of sewage sludge and industrial sludge.

Regulations shall include the requirement that individuals transporting fertilizers, chemicals, sewage sludge and industrial sludge shall maintain adequate liability insurance coverage during transportation.

2. Expand Broadband

Goochland County supports additional funding and improvements to existing state law to make it easier for wireless communication companies to either use existing tall structures or build communication structures as long as localities ability to regulate land use is preserved. The County is not opposed to new technology or to additional towers within Goochland County.

3. Limited Residential Lodging (Airbnb, etc.)

Goochland County supports amending §55-248.54 of the Code of Virginia to allow localities to prohibit the location of limited residential lodging in certain zoning districts. In addition, the County supports amendments requiring that the Department of Taxation shall share location information of limited residential lodging with localities.

Priority Requests – Schools

1. Revise Verified Credit Requirements for Graduation to Complement Further Reductions in Mandated SOL Tests at the High School Level

The School Board seeks a revision in the verified credit requirements for graduation. In order to further reduce the number of SOL tests required of our students, the high school graduation verified credit requirements must change. We do not advocate for a reduction in the standard units of credit required for graduation, rather, just the requirement that some courses be “verified” by SOL tests.

2. Eliminate the Requirement for School to Begin After Labor Day

The School Board seeks legislation to amend Section 22.1-79.1 of the Code of Virginia to allow local school boards to be responsible for determining the opening day of school.

Even though Goochland receives this waiver now, we could face the potential for losing our waiver in the future and the current schedule is better for our community. We believe that the tourism industry could see as much financial gain in the first two weeks of June as they see in the final two weeks of August.

3. Support any Legislation that Moves the State Closer to Fully Funding the Standards of Quality (SOQ)

The School Board believes that the cap on support positions nearly 10 years ago has prevented necessary state funding. The School Board believes the state should begin funding critical positions not covered in the Standards of Quality (SOQ), such as reading specialists, math specialists, and elementary assistant principals.

4. Oppose any Legislation that Requires a Redistribution of Local Dollars When Establishing State-Wide Virtual Schools/Programs

The School Board requests that the General Assembly oppose any legislation that requires a redistribution of local dollars when establishing state-wide virtual schools/programs.

Even when considering the bills proposed last year, we would also encourage the General Assembly to require residents to enroll in high quality local virtual schools when the programs are comparable or better than the state program. Local school divisions frequently have to support these students with their enrollments and process in the course, the state funding is necessary to manage this process; otherwise, local dollars are inherently going to support this state program.

5. Oppose any Bill Requiring “Maintenance of Effort” since This De-Incentivizes Efficiency and Efforts to Save/Reduce Funding

2017 Policy Positions

- ✓ **Support** changes to clarify and improve the Conditional Zoning “Proffer” language contained in SB 549 that the General Assembly passed during the 2016 Session.
- ✓ **Support** eliminating or significantly restructuring the Certificate of Public Need (COPN) process which is currently extremely lengthy and costly. The desired outcome of the COPN can be achieved more easily, leaving the medical industry to focus on health care and access rather than battling each other over advances in these areas.
- ✓ **Support** efforts to complete the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study of Industrial Residuals & Biosolids as outlined in HJ 120 that the General Assembly passed during the 2016 Session.
- ✓ **Oppose** any legislation requiring the recording and keeping of written or audio minutes of a closed meeting of a public body for discussions of delicate topics specifically identified and authorized by Virginia law. Requiring such a record would negate the very purpose for authorizing closed meetings on such sensitive matters.
- ✓ **Support** Regional County Transportation Priorities
 - 288 @ Broad Street (Rt. 250) – Intersection Improvements & Signals, North & South
 - I-64 & Ashland Rd (Rt. 623) – Traffic Signal
 - West Creek Pkwy. & Patterson Ave. (Rt. 6) – Traffic Signal
 - Tuckahoe Creek Parkway Bridge

- ✓ **Support** granting counties equal taxing authority to that of cities and towns.
- ✓ **Support** the requirement that bills with a local fiscal impact must be introduced by the first day of the General Assembly session.
- ✓ **Support** the prohibition of new unfunded mandates and the implementation of a “Sunset Clause” on existing unfunded mandates imposed upon localities.
- ✓ **Support** any legislation that enhances or strengthens the Commonwealth’s ranking for doing business in Virginia.

Approved by the Board of Supervisors – October 4, 2016