

Goochland County 2020 Legislative Agenda

Priority Requests – County

1. Expand Broadband

Requested Action

Goochland County supports the Commonwealth dedicating additional funding to the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) for broadband expansion. We are supportive of efforts to make it feasible for broadband providers and localities to expand broadband service into unserved and underserved areas. Further, Goochland County supports improvements to existing state law to make it easier for wireless communication companies to either use existing tall structures or build communication structures so long as localities ability to regulate land use is preserved. The County supports the adoption and implementation of new technology that will improve and expand citizen access to broadband internet. We support the addition of new towers within Goochland County, through appropriate planning processes, to improve and expand citizen access to broadband internet.

Background

Goochland County is a unique and beautiful place that makes it very attractive to residents and businesses alike. However, without reliable internet access in large areas of the County, we miss out on commercial development opportunities, and home-based business opportunities, and our families miss out on critical educational opportunities. The County continues to investigate and seek opportunities to expand broadband throughout the County for the benefit of its residents and businesses.

2. Virginia Cooperative Extension – Restore Funding for County Staff Positions

Requested Action

Goochland County requests the restoration of funding for Virginia Cooperative Extension County staff positions to full time with the traditional Federal, State, and local funding model.

Background

Goochland County is supportive of our agricultural community and desires to do so through programmatic offerings via the Virginia Cooperative Extension county staff positions. Recently the county had multiple position vacancies in our Virginia Cooperative Extension local program that lasted for more than a year. One such position is part-time, which makes it hard to recruit and maintain staff in the position and ultimately to support our agricultural community.

3. Reimbursement for the Compensation and Expense of the Electoral Board and the General Registrar

Requested Action

Goochland County requests legislation for the full compensation and expenses of the Electoral Board and the General Registrar.

Background

The Appropriations Act has previously reduced the funds available to localities for Financial Assistance for General Registrar Compensation (78001) and for Local Electoral Board Compensation and Expenses (78002).

Priority Requests – Schools

1. Adjust the funding formula for Regional Governor’s Schools to accommodate the needs of full-day programs

Currently, full day Governor’s Schools programs like the one at Maggie L. Walker are funded using the same mechanism as are partial day programs. Full day programs require greater funding needs from an administrative, maintenance, operations, security, and programmatic standpoint. However, the nature of the full day program is not accounted for in budget appropriations. It is our belief that the needs of full day programs should be accounted for in future appropriations for the Commonwealth’s Regional Governor’s Schools.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Oppose any bill that creates Parental Choice Educational Savings Accounts

The School Board believes that these accounts would be considered unconstitutional under Article VIII, Section 10 of the Constitution of Virginia.

5. Oppose any bill that would allow the Board of Education to establish regional charter school divisions that would be governed by a separate board appointed by the Board of Education.

6. Initiate legislation that would require local school divisions to report both a letter grade and a specific numerical values earned by students on all official transcripts.

Divisions across the Commonwealth struggle with the idea of 10 point grading scales to best serve their students in applying for post-secondary schools. Reporting of numerical grade

values removes the need to “normalize” grading scales and provides more exact data for post-secondary applicants.

2020 County Policy Positions

- ✓ **Support** the presumption that County assessments (or as adjusted by the Board of Equalization) are correct and the preservation of the “manifest error” evidentiary requirement for assessment appeals.
- ✓ **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** recommendations and efforts resulting from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study of Industrial Residuals & Biosolids outlined in HJ 120 passed by the General Assembly during the 2016 Session.
- ✓ **Oppose** any legislation amending Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation specifically pertaining to regulation of land surveyor photogrammetrists and local geographic information system (GIS) staff.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Oppose** any legislation eliminating the sum sufficiency of the state’s share of funding for private educational day placements for children with disabilities receiving services through the Children’s Services Act (CSA); or any effort to reallocate special education funding through a new formula that would shift costs onto local governments.
- ✓ **Support** Regional County Transportation Priorities – Smart Scale Projects
 - 288 @ Broad Street (Rt. 250) – Intersection Improvements & Signals, North & South
 - I-64 & Ashland Rd (Rt. 623) – Traffic Signal
 - Tuckahoe Creek Parkway Bridge – bridge connecting to Ridgefield Parkway (Henrico)
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Oppose** any financial policies or regulations that harm or impose burdens upon localities.
- ✓ **Support** the full funding of education for localities and public schools.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Support** funding and upgrades to critical state software that local government offices and agencies rely on and interact for day-to-day business (*e.g.*, Medicaid Cases – Social Services, State Electoral Board).
- ✓ ***Oppose** the passage of any state laws that infringe upon the rights of the law-abiding citizens of the Commonwealth under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and under Article I, Section 13 of the Virginia Constitution.

2020 County Advocacy Positions

Regional County Transportation Priorities

Goochland County is advocating to move up funding and completion of the County’s regional transportation priorities funded through Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) “Smart Scale” process. The two (2) high priority projects are planned for major intersection access points to Route 288/Route 250 and I-64.

1. UPC #109315 – Rte. 288/Rte. 250 Interchange
 Intersection of NB Route 288 on/off ramps with Broad Street Rd.:
 - i. Install traffic signal
 - ii. Add 2nd lane on NB Route 288 to EB Broad Street Rd. off-ramp, with new traffic signal
 - iii. Construct 2nd WB left-turn lane onto Broad Street Rd.
 - iv. Widen south leg of intersection onto ramp
 Project Cost: \$4,270,000
 Start Development: 10/17/16 – Utility Relocation: 6/27/19
 Start Delivery: 11/19/20 – Complete Delivery: ????

2. UPC #109313 – I-64 Ramp Signalization at Ashland Road (Rte. 623)
 Install 1 Traffic Signal at Route 623 (Ashland Road) for Eastbound on/off ramps
 Project Cost: \$766,837
 Start Development: 10/03/16 – Determine Requirements: 12/31/19
 Start Delivery: 03/21/23 – Complete Delivery: ????

These major intersection access points are highly traveled by citizens from throughout the Richmond Region; heading to and from work, on their way to go shopping, or simply passing through the region. The locations are experiencing traffic accidents on an increasing basis; in the case of the Route 288/Route 250 Interchange, over two dozen accidents have occurred since 2015 in this area alone.

It is imperative that funding for completion of these projects be moved up earlier in the Six-Year Improvement Program.

Approved by the Goochland County Board of Supervisors – November 6, 2019

***Amended by the Goochland County Board of Supervisors – December 3, 2019**