



- 2024 Legislative Priorities -

PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

We urge the State to fully fund its share of the realistic costs of the Standards of Quality (SOQ) and reverse policy changes that previously reduced funding or shifted funding responsibility to localities.

- The recent Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report on K-12 education funding found that K-12 education in Virginia is underfunded, noting that local school divisions receive less funding per student than divisions in other states and several key funding benchmarks.
- Localities need an adequately-defined SOQ that closes the gap between what school divisions are providing and what the State currently funds in the SOQ.
- Localities and school divisions should have flexibility in the use of state funds provided for school employee compensation.
- We also support allowing all localities the option of levying a one-cent sales tax to be used for construction or renovation of schools.

BUDGETS AND FUNDING

We urge the governor and legislature to enhance state aid to localities and public schools, to not impose mandates on or shift costs to localities, and to enhance local revenue options.

- Adequate state investment for local service delivery is crucial.
- We oppose unfunded state and federal mandates and the cost shifting that occurs when the State or the federal government fails to fund requirements or reduces or eliminates funding for programs.
- We support additional and strengthened revenue options for localities in order to diversify the local revenue stream; the state should not restrict local revenue sources or confiscate or redirect local general fund dollars to the state treasury.
- Any tax reform efforts should examine financing and delivery of state services at the local level and how revenue is generated relative to our economic competitiveness.

LAND USE and GROWTH MANAGEMENT

We encourage the State to resist preempting or circumventing existing land use authorities, and to support local authority to plan and regulate land use.

- We support the state providing local governments with additional tools to manage growth.
- We support a broader and more workable impact fee authority.
- We support changes to provisions of the current proffer law that limit the scope of impacts that may be addressed by proffers.