

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- The City of Manassas provides more than two times the required local funding for Manassas City Public Schools. We support actions by the General Assembly to recognize and fund the true costs of public education and significantly increase funding for K-12 education, pre- kindergarten (Pre-K), and for career and technical education.
- The current Standards of Quality do not recognize the number of instructional and support staff necessary to provide a 21st century education. Required raises for SOQ-funded positions not only mandate a local match, but also necessitate the City to fund 100% of raises for non-SOQ- funded positions in order to prevent pay disparities among teachers. This amounts to an unfunded mandate on the City and the School system.

SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE

- We support efforts to strengthen and maintain the principles of sovereign and qualified immunity for local governments and their officials.
- We support expansion of local revenue sources and increased local authority over revenues like the Machinery and Tools Tax and the Business and Professional Occupational License Fee.
- We support local control over municipal utilities as local regulation of municipal utilities should be provided by local officials who are accountable to the utility customer.
- We support holding public safety officials accountable to the 21st Century Policing strategies and not the creation of unfunded criminal justice and police reform legislation.

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CITY OF MANASSAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2024



COMMUNITY VITALITY

- We support an amendment to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2204 clarifying advertising requirements for land use public hearings. The amendments enacted in 2023 to standardize public notice requirements (H 2161) have created ambiguity regarding the “intended adoption” of plans or ordinances, which the City historically has done at a separate and subsequent meeting following the required public hearing.
- We support local control over land use decisions, including planning, zoning, and mitigating the impacts of new development on our residents, schools and other infrastructure.
- We support elimination of the annexation moratorium as the Commonwealth continues to de-emphasize funding obligations to cities like funding for local police departments (HB 599).
- We support more resources from the Commonwealth to increase home ownership such as down payment assistance and low-interest loans.
- We support reviewing the critical traffic laws to primary enforcement, such as pedestrian/jaywalking, tinted windows (officer safety) and defective equipment such as tail lights/brake lights/head lights, and expired inspection.
- We support increased funding to build community crisis service capacity within Region 2, to include reforming the commitment process and the expansion of crisis bed space, to buffer and supplement bed space needed for Temporary Detention Orders (TDO) while waiting for state bed space to become available. This would eliminate significant stress and resource allocation for our public safety personnel and local hospitals.

- We support increased state general funding for community-based public health programs, to include programs such as Healthy Families, Comprehensive Health Investment Project (CHIP) of Virginia, Smart Beginnings, and Resource Mothers. These are critical investments in programs that ensure a strong start for children, and can help reduce the need for costlier interventions later in life.
- We support increased efforts to address substance dependency, and these programs must be comprehensive and coordinated with localities. The state should develop and support evidence-based prevention initiatives and should continue to improve access to treatment.
- We support changes in the law enforcement decertification process to ensure confidentiality of Internal Affairs and personnel files during the decertification application process.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- We support funding for education and workforce development particularly for Career and Technical Education and the strengthening of economic development incentives that spur job creation and retention.
- We support additional funding for Fast Forward, internships, career placement, and other workforce development programs managed by the Virginia Community College System.
- We support local flexibility in the promotion of economic development.

TRANSFORMATIVE MOBILITY

- We support the continued equitable funding of transportation projects by VDOT in the Northern Virginia district in the same manner as projects are funded in other regions of the Commonwealth.
- We support increased funding for public transit, multi-modal, and alternative mass transit solutions.
- We support amending Virginia Code Section 15.2-1901 to authorize the use of eminent domain for transportation improvements on property contiguous to, but outside the city boundaries.
- This authority would be analogous to eminent domain use outside the city boundaries for public utilities.
- We support legislation proposed by the Virginia Airport Operators Council (VAOC) that would define abandoned and derelict aircraft, and the procedures airport operators can take to use, trade, sale or remove the aircraft. This would provide clear guidance for aircraft that have been abandoned or are derelict on premises owned and controlled by the operator of a public use airport.

VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

We support the 2024 VML Legislative Program.