

2024 General Assembly Legislative Package

Legislative Principles

Recognize and Strengthen State Partnership with Localities

The City supports...

- efforts to reduce the local match for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
- legislation and funding that fully fund K-12 education and acknowledge the true cost of K-12 education funding
- efforts to ensure that our schools are safe and in good condition, free of environmental health and other hazards
- legislation and appropriations that fund or remove unfunded mandates from our local government, provide additional revenue or revenue authority in order to support core municipal operations and services, and support the City's facility needs and plans
- the preservation of existing state aid to localities
- the full funding of all state funding commitments to localities and opposes efforts to shift the costs of shared services to localities
- the Commonwealth's partnership in efforts to attract and retain small and local businesses throughout our City and to cultivate economic development opportunities in our community

Preserve and Expand Local Authority and Funding for Localities

The City supports...

- legislation and funding that aids our efforts to utilize budgetary, land use, regulatory and other economic development tools to foster sustainable and equitable development, diversify revenue, and allow greater investment in our infrastructure
- legislation and budget items that preserve existing local authority and funding for localities, expand local authority and local revenue options, and create opportunities for additional local revenue authority to increase funding for critical local needs, including transit, transportation, school construction and renovation, and other significant capital needs;
- the protection of local authority to plan, zone, and enforce land use regulations, without restricting local zoning authority or the zoning process
- legislation that affords localities the authority necessary to encourage smart, appropriate development in our community, preserve the diverse, mixed-income character of our neighborhoods, maintain and expand our stock of affordable housing, and protect the historic character of our City
- legislation that affords localities flexibility and additional authority in the areas of hiring and procurement, so localities can provide services efficiently and in a fiscally responsible manner

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while also encouraging hiring local workers and the involvement of local businesses in municipal projects and services

Enhance Public Engagement, Health, and Safety

The City Supports...

- legislation and budget items necessary to ensure all residents have access to resources shown to prevent early death and disability and promote resilience
- common sense gun safety legislation, especially efforts that focus on youth access to firearms
- efforts to ensure that marijuana legalization efforts include protections for children and youth
- efforts to reduce inequities in our health system, increase access to necessary, appropriate healthcare for all residents, and achieve health equity related to tobacco use
- legislation and funding to ensure access to voting for all Virginia citizens.
- legislation to protect vulnerable road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians, and help us achieve our Vision Zero goals
- legislation that promotes the mental and physical well-being of every resident in our community and provides a system of support for residents with behavioral health needs
- efforts to separate access to behavioral health services, care, and support from the criminal justice system
- efforts in the General Assembly to identify and maintain adequate resources to respond to the emergent needs of residents experiencing a mental health emergency, including increasing the number of psychiatric beds available in the Commonwealth
- legislation to enhance building safety in the Commonwealth, particularly in high-rise buildings
- legislation to ensure immigrants, refugees, and their families can fully participate in the economic, civic, social, and cultural life of our city and our Commonwealth
- efforts to make membership on public bodies more accessible to residents
- individual intellectual freedom and therefore opposes efforts to impose censorship in our schools and libraries

Protect and Support Vulnerable and Underserved Populations

The City Supports...

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- legislation and funding that helps City staff protect the most vulnerable members of our community, including children, older adults, survivors of domestic and sexual violence, individuals in behavioral health crisis, and those of differing abilities
- efforts to protect vulnerable residents who may be precariously housed or living in affordable or subsidized housing in our community
- efforts to protect and support transgender and non-binary students in our schools and reinforce school boards in their efforts to allow LGBTQ+ students freedom of expression and ensure their safety
- efforts to invest in Pre-K programs, encourage flexibility and creativity in the delivery of VPI programs in our community, and ensure VPI policies and systems promote, rather than limit, parental choice
- efforts to increase access to and affordability of high-quality early childhood education and childcare
- efforts to invest in maternal and child health, especially in addressing maternal health disparities, and in expanding and diversifying the perinatal workforce
- efforts to encourage and incentivize family-friendly workplace policies in businesses throughout the Commonwealth, including the need for paid family leave for all workers
- efforts to provide comprehensive crisis mental health care specifically for youth/adolescents
- legislation that reforms our criminal justice system so it operates fairly and equitably for all members of our community
- legislation and budget priorities that ensure Alexandria has safe, reliable and frequent mobility choices regardless of resources or ability and provide a wide variety of safe, connected, multimodal transportation options in our city that enable access to daily activities in our community and our region
- legislation to enact a state prevailing wage and protect workers from wage theft
- legislation that assists in the deployment of universal, affordable access to broadband technology, in both unserved and underserved areas, and efforts to ensure a fair and open Internet

Improve Resilience, Promote Energy Efficiency, and Encourage Clean Energy Investment

The City Supports...

- legislation and the funding necessary to plan for and mitigate urban and inland flooding that is often the result of climate-triggered historic rain events

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- legislation that assists in our efforts to expand our tree canopy, attain clean air and clean waterways, and increase recycling in the Commonwealth
- legislation to increase energy efficiency in existing buildings and to mitigate greenhouse gas emission impacts of the transportation sector
- efforts at the General Assembly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth 50% by 2030, including efforts to decarbonize the statewide electricity supply, give communities choice over their electricity supply, and other policy strategies included in the City's Environmental Action Plan 2040