

2022 State Legislative Initiatives



**City Council Presentation
November 23, 2021**

Presentation Overview

- 2022 Legislative Initiatives:
 - State
 - Statewide Public Policy Initiatives
- Important Dates and Next Steps
- Question & Answers

2022 State Legislative & Budget Initiatives

1. Midtown/Downtown Tunnels Tolls: Significant permanent reduction or total elimination of tolls

- The General Assembly should expand the existing Elizabeth Rivers Crossings (ERC) toll relief program to income levels of \$45,000 or less:
 - The new supplemental program funded by the state would be initially established using a portion of the ARPA funds not yet appropriated by the General Assembly to cover the difference between the current income level capped agreement with ERC for Portsmouth and Norfolk commuters earning \$30,000 or less
 - The \$15,000 difference would be covered by the state under this new program
 - The toll relief for this group of commuters would be the same as those at the \$30,000 or less income levels
 - This program can be set as a short-term relief program providing temporary relief coming out of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the current economic inflationary period ... sunseting in 2025

2022 State Legislative & Budget Initiatives

2. Portsmouth City Charter Changes:

- Amend the Charter of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia by amending Section 3.11 Regarding Noninterference in Appointments or Removals
- Modification of the current recall provision (Section 12.09 of the Portsmouth City Charter)

3. Amend Virginia Code § 44-146.29:3 - Emergency Shelters Upgrade Assistance Grant Fund

- Amend language to enable localities that do not own, but operate their shelters to participate in this grant program
- Increase this fund by \$2.5M making the annually available amount in the fund \$5M

4. Increase the Port Host Communities Revitalization Fund annually by \$3.5 for total annual Fund of \$5M

Supported State Public Policy Initiatives

- Increase State assistance to local law enforcement (599 funding)
- Gun violence prevention through community prevention programs
- K12 Education:
 - Virginia Board of Education's Resolution 2021-1 Prescribing the Standards of Quality for Public Schools in Virginia:
 - Remove paragraph C.5.k of Item 145 of the 2021 Appropriation Act from future Appropriation Acts (removal of cap)
 - Allocate the \$387.8M in state aid to local school divisions to aid funding for non-SOQ Support positions
- School Modernization via a One Percent Local Option Sales Tax
- Amend Virginia Code § 10.1-2211.2 (A) regarding disbursement of funds appropriated for caring of historical African American cemeteries and graves:
 - By expanding the definition of “qualifying organization” allowing localities applying for the funding under the State Fund even if they do not own the grave/cemetery

Supported State Public Policy Initiatives *(continued)*

- Catalytic Convertors:
 - Amend Virginia Code § 18.1-108.01 to reflect language in North Carolina's Code § 14.72-08 relating to Felony Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts
- Preserving and Expanding Tree Canopy:
 - Provide local governments greater authority in the reforestation, preservation, and management of urban forests in recognition of their ability to capture and store carbon, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, reduce energy use, and mitigate urban heat islands and their health effects
 - Appropriate \$50M to the Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program to enable local governments to expand and better maintain urban tree canopy
- Dedicated Transit Funding for HRT/and statewide transit needs to include:
 - Development of higher speed passenger rail service for the Hampton Roads – Richmond Corridor
- Address behavioral health services in local and regional jails
- Continue increasing funding and programs for:
 - Mental Health
 - Opioid and Heroin overdose epidemics

Supported State Public Policy Initiatives *(continued)*

- Clean Chesapeake Bay:
 - Programs & measures - impacted MS4 Permit localities to include new low interest loans for flooding mitigation (resiliency)
- Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):
 - Expand electronic meetings outside of declared emergency periods with flexibility for localities to determine how to include public participation and public comment
- Funding assistance for Hampton Roads recurrent flooding/sea level rise projects – especially military facilities
- Improve State and Local Government Fiscal Relationships
- Reverse amended 2018 language for Communications Sales and Use Tax:
 - Set at same level as state sales tax rate
 - Include taxation of audio, video streaming services and prepaid calling cards

Next Steps

November 23, 2021:

- Adopt by Resolutions 2022 State and Federal Legislative Initiatives

November 2021:

- Prefiling of state legislative initiatives begins – 11/15/21
- Meet with VA General Assembly Delegation – 11/23/21
- Prefiling of state legislative initiatives ends – 11/29/21

December 2021:

- Governor presents budget – 12/16/21
- Prefiling deadline – TBA

January 2022:

- 2nd Session of 177th Congress begins - 1/3/22
- 2022 General Assembly Session begins - 1/12/22

The image features a logo centered within a white oval. The oval is bordered by a thick red line, which is itself set against a dark blue background. The logo consists of the letters 'Q', '&', and 'A'. The 'Q' and 'A' are rendered in a blue, outlined, sans-serif font. The ampersand is a stylized, red, cursive script font that overlaps the 'Q' and 'A'.

Q&A