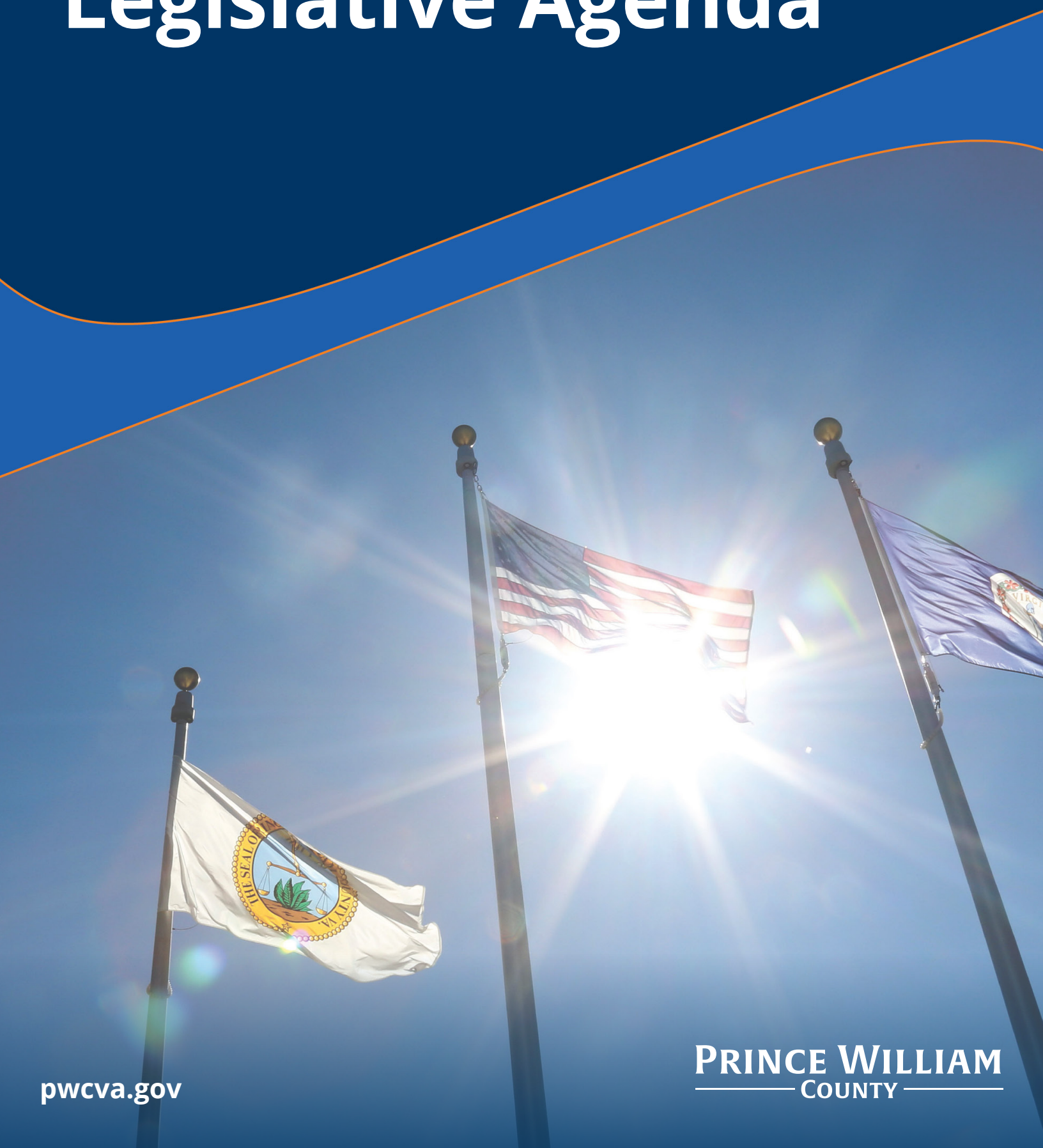


# 2026

# Legislative Agenda



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*Note: The 2026 Legislative Agenda was adopted October 2025.*

This agenda is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of all issues, but to serve as a guide to matters of concern to the Board of County Supervisors and the community at-large.

Prince William County looks forward to working with the county delegation to the Virginia General Assembly and the county’s federal delegation during the course of the 2026 session.





PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA OVERVIEW

Total Population

508,109

- 2nd most populous in VA
- 2020 Census: 482,204
- PWCGTS, 2024 Q2

Diversity Index

73.7

- 10th most diverse in U.S.
- Most diverse in VA
- U.S. Census Bureau

Average Household Size

3.06

- DC metro avg.: 2.67
- Among highest in DC area
- U.S. Census Bureau

Median Household Income

\$128,873

- 25th highest in U.S.
- 9th highest in DC metro
- U.S. Census Bureau

Median Age

36

- DC Metro Median: 37.9
- VA median: 38.8

# of Students in Schools

90,064

- 2nd largest in VA
- 34th largest in U.S.



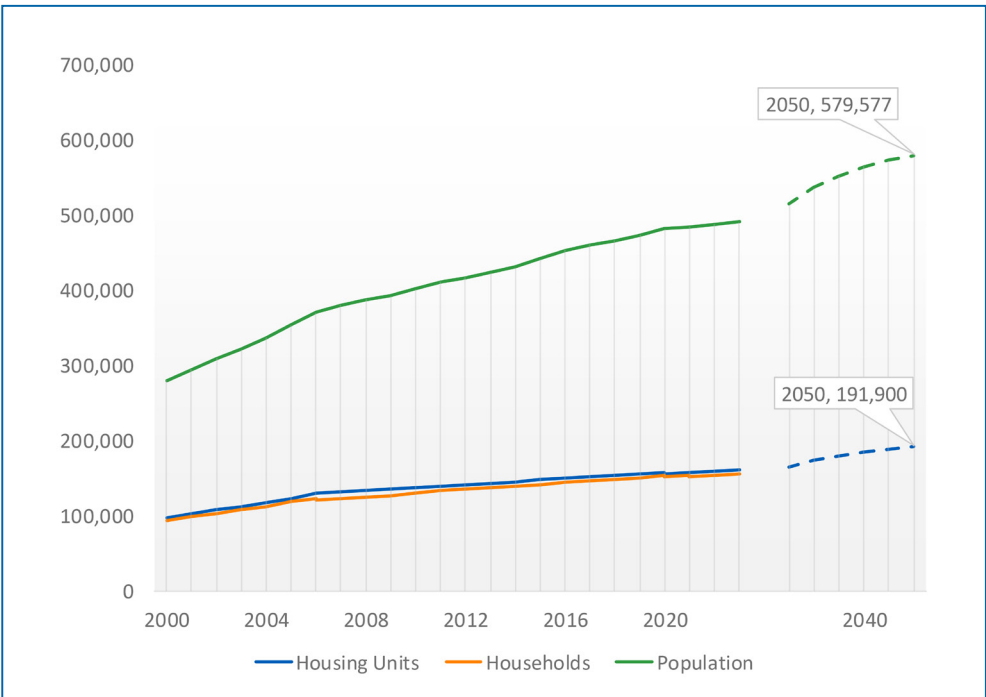
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA OVERVIEW



Robust Population Growth

Population growth is continuing in the county, though it is moderating.

Span	Population growth
2000 – 2010	43%
2010 – 2020	20%
2020 – 2030	11%
2030 – 2040	5%
2040 – 2050	3%

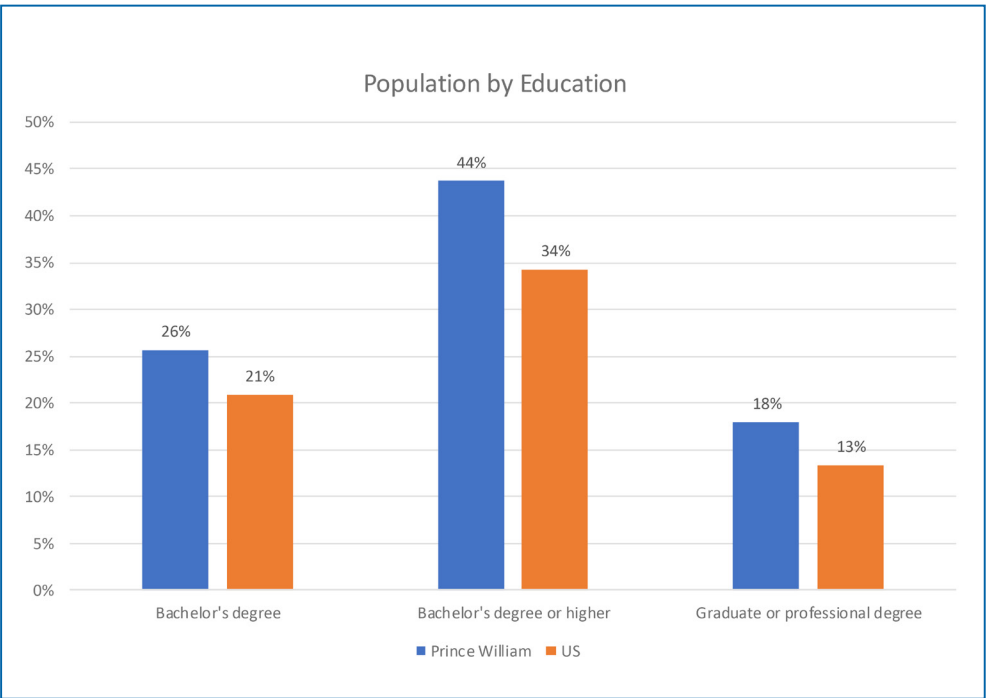


Source: Prince William County demographer



Well-Educated County

44% of the county's population has a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 34% for the U.S.



Source: Most recent U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates.

Prince William County will support legislation, policies and appropriations measures that:

- Mitigate the burden of unfunded mandates on Prince William County
- Provide resources that impact the most vulnerable in the community
- Allow for opportunities to leverage resources in partnership with the Commonwealth to best meet the needs of the county
- Support legislation and measures that will enable Prince William County to attract new employers and support existing businesses already based in the county
- Promote environmental stewardship that enhances the quality of life for the residents of Prince William County
- Support initiatives that promote efficiency and transparency in government
- Fully fund the standards for education and cost to compete

Prince William County will oppose legislation, policies and appropriations measures that:

- Reduces funding or shifts the costs of shared services to the county from the Commonwealth for essential services
- Attempts to preempt, restrict or limit local revenue raising authority or adversely impacts existing taxing authority (e.g. removing a funding source, such as TOT)
- Imposes additional fees on the county for measures that are clearly the responsibility of the Commonwealth
- Infringes on the local authority and flexibility to control policies and procedures governing local land use matters, as land use decisions are local in character and should be determined and solved at the local level
- Negatively impacts the current applicable legal standard(s) in any local tax matter
- Compromises presumption of real or tangible property assessments
- Negatively impacts the county's ability to provide public safety services
- Adversely affects future transportation funding levels

MOBILITY

Prince William County's Strategic Goal: Foster an inter-connected and accessible transportation network that advances the county's mobility infrastructure, broadens transportation choices and enhances safety.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS

Needs and Capacity Assessment for Tractor Trailer Parking on Major Corridors

Prince William County supports any proposed legislation that supports additional parking for tractor trailers or any pilot programs that identify additional opportunities for tractor trailer parking. There is a growing need for this infrastructure expansion due to safety implications, productivity concerns, traffic issues and conflicts in residential and commercial areas. The shortage of safe, secure and accessible truck parking is a national issue identified by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. This shortage is particularly acute in Prince William County, which is flanked by I-95 on the east and I-66 on the west, and has resulted in significant truck parking in residential and mixed-use land areas. This not only creates safety concerns, but is a major obstacle to implementing the county's plans for walkable communities and urbanized multimodal roadways in Activity Centers that discourage heavy vehicular travel. However, the county recognizes the critical role of commercial vehicles to the local and regional economies and the growing demand for freight. The county also understands that the current remedy of restricting commercial vehicles parking only addresses one part of this multifaceted issue, and there is a need to provide dedicated commercial vehicle parking facilities and rest areas in appropriate locations, especially in proximity and along major freight corridors.

Therefore, Prince William County requests a resolution directing the Virginia Department of Transportation to conduct a needs and capacity assessment for tractor trailer parking on the I-66 and I-95 corridors.

Amend Virginia Code § 33.2-909. Abandonment of Highway, Landing or railroad crossing; procedure

The county seeks to amend § 33.2-909 to provide greater clarity and flexibility in the process for abandoning portions of the secondary state highway system. Current statutory language regarding a "residence district" is unclear and has created differing interpretations among stakeholders. The requested amendment is intended to establish a clear and consistent understanding among stakeholders and help facilitate localities' use of this method of abandonment.

Amend Virginia Code § 25.1-307.B, a Section Regarding Eminent Domain

The county seeks to amend § 25.1-307(B) to clarify documentation requirements in light of changes made during the 2025 General Assembly session by SB 1158. Specifically, the requested amendment would make it clearer that the required information may be provided by a combination of one or more plats, drawings or plans. The requested amendment would not change the information that a locality is required to provide.

Administrative Code Change to 24VAC30-151-600 for Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

The installation of sidewalks, steps, curb ramps, shared use paths, pedestrian underpasses and overpasses within right-of-way is currently authorized under a single use permit. When a pedestrian and bicycle facility is to be installed within a limited access right-of-way as defined by VDOT, it requires a full Commonwealth Transportation Board approval. Administrative Code 24VAC30-151-600 states the following:

"The installation of pedestrian or bicycle facilities within limited access right-of-way shall be considered a change in limited access control and requires approval of the Commonwealth Transportation Board prior to permit issuance. The installation of pedestrian or bicycle facilities parallel to and within the right-of-way of nonlimited access highways crossing limited access highways by way of an existing bridge or underpass shall not be considered a change in limited access but shall require the approval of the Commissioner of Highways prior to issuance of a permit for such activity."





Prince William County supports changes to no longer require the Commonwealth Transportation Board approval if the pedestrian and bicycle project is within limited access right-of-way as it impacts project schedule and timelines. The county requests flexibility for this approval to be issued by the District Administrator or their designee, which is consistent with most other project approval items.



**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS**

➤ **Enhanced Funding and Flexibility for Improving Roadway Safety for All Users**

Prince William County supports increased dedicated state funding for traffic safety improvements and requests that the General Assembly encourage the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Virginia Department of Transportation to review current traffic calming and safety standards for state-maintained roadways and identify opportunities to increase flexibility in the guidelines that will enable localities to implement more safety improvements on transportation facilities to meet state goals of reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries.

Prince William County has numerous examples of projects that are local priorities for traffic safety improvements, but do not qualify under current standards. These include, but are not limited to:

- Roadways with high accidents, but no documented speeding
- Rural roads with documented speeding, but geometry limitations and/or high volumes
- Collector roadways in neighborhoods and high pedestrian areas
- Roadways with high levels of industrial traffic

Current policies and standards also present obstacles to implementing safety improvements, including bicycle and pedestrian improvements, in high volume corridors such as interstate interchanges and bridge crossings. Prince William County supports initiatives that create a clear, streamlined and responsive approach to quickly implement safety improvements.

Prince William County supports increased dedicated funding through various programs to fund safety improvements:

- Additional funding for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
- New funding program for traffic calming and small safety improvements
- New program for high-cost pedestrian and bicycle crossings (such as pedestrian bridges and multiuse trails)

The county supports VACo’s position of enhanced authority for counties to deploy and administer photo speed monitoring devices within their jurisdictions in the interest of public safety; and opposes changes to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-968 and 46.2-882.

Prince William County supports efforts to restore funding levels impacted by post-COVID policy measures and opposes appropriations or legislative steps which can adversely affect future transportation funding levels.

➤ **Advancing the Enhancement and Expansion of Multimodal Public Transit**

As the second largest and fourth fastest growing jurisdiction in the Commonwealth, enhancing and expanding transit options for the public is imperative to supporting population, land use and economic development growth, and meeting the county’s adopted strategic goals for a resilient, equitable and accessible multimodal transportation system. The General Assembly has taken critical steps to advancing transit in the Commonwealth, including the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation’s (DRPT) 2021 Springfield to Quantico Study that recommended a range of transit investments with clear benefits to the county and the Commonwealth. Prince William County supports additional legislative action that will facilitate infrastructure improvements to support the study recommendations, as well as further enhance and expand public transit

options for Prince William residents. This includes advancing recommendations from the SJ 28 Subcommittee and DMVMoves for dedicated, sustainable public transit funding and operations that will meet growing needs by investing in a multimodal system that serves the entire region. More than 20,000 Prince William residents rely on OmniRide Bus and VRE services each day, and ridership continues to increase, with commuter bus routes on the I-66 and I-95 corridors already experiencing overcrowding. Prince William County supports efforts to provide effective, cost-efficient transit solutions, including High Capacity and Bus Rapid Transit.

➤ **Restoring NVTAFunding**

Prince William County supports legislation that continues to restore NVTAF’s funding that was lost as part of House Bill 1539 and Senate Bill 856, passed in 2018. Restoration of the \$38.5 million in NVTAF funding will ensure that Northern Virginia jurisdictions will have adequate funding to solve the region’s transportation issues. Any restoration of NVTAF funding should include state funding and revenue sources. In addition, Prince William County supports the protection of all revenues provided to NVTAF through legislation dating back to 2013.

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE**

➤ **Funding Streams Dedicated to Local Transit**

Prince William County will monitor and report on the Northern Virginia Growing Needs of Public Transit Joint Subcommittee, established by the General Assembly. Specifically, the purpose of the subcommittee is “To study long-term, sustainable, dedicated operations and capital funding as well as cost-containment controls and strategies” to ensure public transit systems can meet the growing needs of public transit in the Northern Virginia region.





## QUALITY OF LIFE

**Prince William County's Strategic Goal:** Enhance quality of life and increase resident retention by creating a resilient and healthy community where residents can afford to live, work, play and retire.

### PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS

➤ **Amend Language of § 15.2-2304 of the Code of Virginia, Relating to Affordable Housing; Local Zoning Ordinance Authority; Comprehensive Plan, to Include Prince William County in Affordable Housing Legislation**

Prince William County seeks legislation that would provide for additional flexibility for its affordable housing dwelling unit program. Current law restricts such authorization to counties with an urban county executive form of government or county manager plan of government and certain other named localities. As the county has adopted its affordable dwelling unit ordinance, being able to use § 15.2-2304 would provide greater flexibility and options in implementing the county's program. Therefore, Prince William County is requesting amending the language to specifically add Prince William County, if not all localities, to § 15.2-2304.

➤ **Authority to Provide Direct Emergency Housing Financial Assistance**

Prince William County requests legislation that provides additional authority and flexibility to provide direct emergency housing financial assistance to residents facing immediate eviction and loss of housing.

➤ **Review of § 36.2-36.55.1 of the Code of Virginia to Modernize Housing and Redevelopment Authority Language**

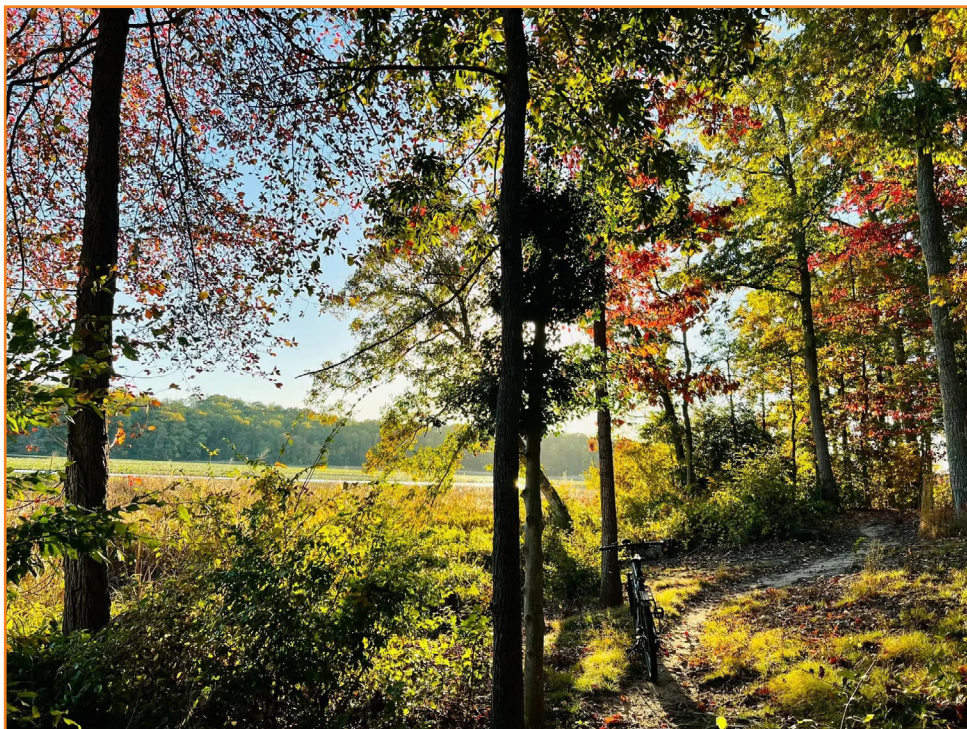
Prince William County requests a comprehensive review of state code provisions governing the powers and responsibilities of redevelopment and housing authorities to ensure these entities can operate as effective local government tools for facilitating local redevelopment and revitalization opportunities.

➤ **Designation of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail as a General Assembly Prioritized Trail**

Prince William County requests the General Assembly designate the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail as a prioritized trail. The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the Washington-Rochambeau Route National Historic Trail are two units of the National Park System that cross through the county. Currently, there are six designated General Assembly Prioritized Trails, but none are located in Northern Virginia.

➤ **Funding Two Segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (Between Dumfries and Locust Shade Park)**

Prince William County requests approximately \$9 million to complete two segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, paralleling the Washington-Rochambeau route between Dumfries and Locust Shade Park in the county.



### PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

➤ **Additional Funding for Affordable Housing Fund**

Prince William County recently created an Affordable Housing fund, as part of its affordable dwelling unit ordinance, to support the development of additional affordable housing units in the county. With additional state funding, the county can expand affordable housing options, which helps to reduce homelessness and ensure that working families, seniors and others have access to safe, affordable and stable homes.

➤ **Continued Support for a Prince William Regional Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) for Adults and Youth**

The CRC for adults and youth in Prince William County is a key component to a robust behavioral health crisis system that will provide a place to go for those most vulnerable and in need of behavioral health crisis services. Further, the CRC will reduce dependency on state hospital beds, reduce the number of residents placed outside of the Northern Virginia region for inpatient services, reduce the impact on public safety staff who spend significant hours waiting for individuals under emergency custody and temporary detention orders, and reduce the impact on local hospital emergency rooms.

Prince William County will monitor and advocate for legislation that advances the behavioral health agenda of the county and Commonwealth.

Further, for the CRC, the Commonwealth is expected to solicit a waiver from the "Institutions for Mental Diseases" designation from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure the maximum Medicaid reimbursement rate for the county facility. The county requests the assistance of each member of our state and federal delegation during this process.

➤ **Continued Support for the Child Advocacy Centers**

Prince William County encourages continued support at the state and federal levels for Child Advocacy Centers, and opposes any decrease in funding that threatens the performance and services of the centers.

➤ **Prince William County Juvenile Services Facility**

Based upon a 2020 study, a plan was developed to address a community-based continuum of programs and services for youth (and their families) involved with or at risk of being involved with the juvenile justice system. This group developed the Juvenile Justice Improvement Project (JJIP) Report. The JJIP report included five recommendations:

- Develop a community-based continuum of programs and services that foster restorative justice policies and practices
- Create community-based, less secure placement options



- Establish youth and family reception centers
- Develop and improve cross-system collaboration among juvenile justice stakeholders
- Update and improve information technology capabilities

To address these needs, Prince William County is currently in the planning stages for the development of a new juvenile justice services facility. The county supports the development of such a facility to serve the needs of juveniles in the community and will monitor the legislative recommendations on juvenile justice services by the Virginia Commission on Youth, and any related evaluation by the General Assembly or Administration on consolidation of such facilities.



► **Address the Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis**

A national workforce shortage has left behavioral health and developmental disability treatment providers struggling to meet the increased demand for services. While demand for services is growing, the ability to recruit and retain qualified employees has become increasingly difficult. The pandemic exacerbated the already significant workforce shortage. In January 2022, the Virginia Health Care Foundation completed an Assessment of the Capacity of Virginia's Licensed Behavioral Health (BH) Workforce. This assessment revealed that a significant number of BH professionals are at or near retirement age, and that despite Virginia's 40 graduate-level BH programs graduating nearly 800 individuals annually, the number who go on to licensure in Virginia is insufficient and does not even maintain the already inadequate supply of BH professionals.

We support the Northern Virginia CSBs request for sufficient funding for an increase in salaries that is comparative to the market rate and demonstrates the value of the work being done and funding to assist in the repayment of student loans in exchange for a commitment to work in the public sector. We further support the Northern Virginia CSBs request for a legislative approach to decreasing the regulatory/administrative burdens through expediting credentialing and decreasing regulatory requirements.

► **Increase Community Capacity for Services**

There does not exist within Prince William County a residential facility for youth substance-use disorders offering withdrawal management and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). MAT for youth is very limited within the county and region. Community Services supports the Northern Virginia CSBs request to increase funding in order to build community capacity within Region 2 for 24/7 specialized residential programs, particularly for youth with a substance use disorder.

► **Replace the Virginia Case Management System**

Prince William County supports the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and the Virginia League of Social Service (VLSS) to request funding to replace the Virginia Case Management System (VaCMS), which is the state system used for determining eligibility for public assistance. It does not work well and is often "down." Prince William County supports the VDSS and VLSS language to require a thorough market check in accordance with Virginia Information Technology Agency requirements before starting development of the system. Due to the multiple and extenuating problems with VaCMS, Prince William County has spent in the past \$884,234 in operational needs pay (overtime) and temp staff costs to help with the benefits process since everything has to be scanned and inputted twice. According to VDSS, replacement of the VaCMS is critical to meet the federal requirements of reducing the SNAP error rate from 11 percent to 6 percent by Oct. 1, 2026. It is essential that any replacement or enhancement of the system include thorough training for DSS staff statewide to ensure consistent application and compliance across all localities.

► **Solutions Addressing Lack of Available State Hospital Beds**

The CRC for adults and youth in Prince William County is a key component to a robust behavioral health crisis system that will provide a place to go for those most vulnerable and in need of behavioral health crisis services. Further, the CRC will reduce dependency on state hospital beds, reduce the number of residents placed outside of the Northern Virginia region for inpatient services, reduce the impact on public safety staff who spend significant hours waiting for individuals under emergency custody and temporary detention orders, and reduce the impact on local hospital emergency rooms.

► **Access to Telehealth Services**

Prince William County supports enhanced access and utilization of telehealth services, whereas even in a post-pandemic environment, such services assist with access to health care services and assessments for many of the community's most vulnerable.

► **Support Military Communities Partnership**

Given the significant economic impact of the Marine Corps Base Quantico in and around Prince William County, we support policy and appropriations measures that advance this partnership, especially in the areas of infrastructure, workforce development, military families support services and related needs.

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE**

► **Cannabis Legislation**

Whereas there are significant community factors associated with the legalization of cannabis, Prince William County will closely monitor and report on all legislation associated with this policy measure. Given the financial implications with forthcoming retail developments, land use (including, but not limited to, siting), regulatory, permitting, public safety, agricultural, taxation and human resources issues, all legislation pertaining to cannabis legalization will be reviewed for county impact.

► **Gaming Legislation**

With the release of a report by JLARC on gaming in Virginia, and given the existing and prospective projects in the gaming space with anticipated significant economic impact for the community and county, Prince William County will actively monitor gaming legislation initiated during the 2026 session, including legislation and regulation addressing "skilled gaming."

► **Housing and Land Use Policies**

Prince William County will closely monitor and report on all legislation from the Governor and General Assembly addressing housing, including legislation stemming from the JLARC study on affordable housing, as well as legislation related to faith-based housing. In addition, the county will track all legislation pertaining to local authority, land use planning and housing matters, correlating all bills to the county's current land use, planning policies and regulations.

► **Data Center Legislation**

Prince William County will closely monitor and report on all legislation related to data centers.





## SAFE & SECURE COMMUNITY

**Prince William County's Strategic Goal:** Cultivate a safe and secure community that advances stakeholder engagement, collaboration and evidence-based results.

### PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUEST

#### ➤ Amend Virginia Code § 19.2-270.7. Determining Decibel Level of Sound with Proper Equipment; Certificate as to Accuracy of Equipment

The county seeks to amend § 19.2-270.7 which currently addresses law-enforcement officers use of equipment to determine the decibel level of any sound, including noise. The county is seeking to clarify that the statutory presumption in this section also applies to properly trained local government staff who are not sworn law-enforcement officers.

#### ➤ Amend Virginia Code § 15.2-980. Civil penalties for Violations of Noise Ordinances

The county seeks to amend § 15.2-980 to provide express authority and additional flexibility in considering whether to adopt civil penalties, rather than criminal, to address noise issues related to certain industrial uses and properties, based on new sounds/acoustic monitoring equipment and techniques and noise mitigation technology and measures.

#### ➤ Amend Virginia Code § 19.2-60.1. Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems by Public Bodies; Search Warrant Required

The county seeks to amend § 19.2-60.1 regarding the use of drones to help streamline the warrant process in urgent and critical situations and improve efficiencies in law enforcement and emergency service operations to respond to reported public safety and emergency situations while keeping the necessary guardrails in place. These amendments would help with the documentation and preservation of evidence, support law enforcement in searching for suspects, and help ensure public safety and security during large public events, as well as align with the capabilities currently provided to law enforcement while using helicopters.

#### ➤ Amend Virginia Retirement System to Allow for Rehiring of Law Enforcement Retirees

Currently, the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) does not allow for law enforcement retirees to work full-time in a VRS covered position, except if the retirees work for the school system as school security officers. Prince William County is requesting that VRS be amended to allow retirees to return full-time without contributing to VRS on a secondary position. This would be a huge benefit to the Police Department, as they will be able to utilize personnel who is already trained, informed and familiar with the community.



### PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

#### ➤ Fully Funding the Elements of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management that are Required Under State Code with General Fund Support

Due to anticipated restructuring of FEMA and related federal reaction to disaster response efforts, it is important for Prince William County and the Commonwealth to prepare accordingly from a policy and funding perspective, to guarantee public safety disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. Prince William County will advocate for funding and related measures to prepare for any federal restructuring and shifts in responsibility.

#### ➤ Reenactment of Virginia Code § 2.2-5517(Q)

The county requests that the General Assembly reenact § 2.2-5517(Q), which authorizes local law enforcement, with a state approved permit, to install and operate license plate readers ("LPR") in state right-of-way. The installation and use of LPRs is and would continue to be subject to the extensive and rigorous existing legal and policy safeguards adopted by the General Assembly that ensure this technology is used legally and appropriately, and individuals' constitutional and legal rights are protected. The county's support is contingent upon these important legal and policy guardrails remaining in place. The Police Department recommends that the county support reenactment because LPRs have proven to be an important law enforcement tool in locating missing or endangered persons, combatting human trafficking, and locating and apprehending wanted persons.

#### ➤ Restoring the Return of Excess Clerk's Fees to the County as Provided by Code of Virginia § 17.1-285

Virginia Code § 17.1-285 states: The Commonwealth shall be entitled to one-third of the excess fees collected by clerks as required to be reported under § 17.1-283 and the governing body of the county or city shall be entitled to two-thirds of the excess fees collected unless otherwise provided by law.

During the financial crisis in 2008-2009, Item § 3-5.05 was added to the budget bill to "otherwise provide by law" that the funds going to the Commonwealth would increase to 2/3 and the funds returning to the county would decrease to 1/3. Although the financial crisis necessitating the budget language has long since passed, the budget has not been amended to restore the application of the code. Restoring the return of excess fees would result in increased revenues to the county (not the Clerk's Office) by \$300,000-\$1,200,000 dollars annually, based on data from the past eight (8) years. These revenues would be unrestricted and used however the Board sees fit.

#### ➤ Adequate Funding for Pretrial Services and Local Probation Services

Alternatives to incarceration including local probation and pretrial services should be funded adequately in Virginia. This is necessary to ensure a fair and equitable criminal justice system and to maintain public safety. Recent sessions of the General Assembly have recognized the value of these services and provided modest and needed increases in state funding to support unserved localities and to support salary increases. This should continue as well as additional support provided to increase local program capacity.

#### ➤ Preserve State Assistance to Local Police Departments (599 Funding)

The state created a program of financial assistance to local police departments (HB599). The Code of Virginia provides that "599" funding is to increase at the same rate as growth in state General Fund revenue collections. Recent appropriations for this priority should be preserved by the General Assembly.

#### ➤ Alternative Transportation for Temporary Detention Orders

Prince William County law enforcement spend an inordinate amount of time transporting persons in crisis to a mental health hospital on a temporary detention order (TDO). Transporting to a hospital outside of the county requires two officers, which hence removes them from their primary responsibilities. Transports (roundtrip) can take between two and 14 hours. The contracted provider for the Commonwealth has staffing limitations and are unable to handle all transports for persons deemed appropriate. Prince William County supports the General Assembly allocating the needed resources to implement the statewide Alternative Transportation Plan, without any added local funding burden.





➤ **Reclassification of Public Safety Telecommunicators to a Protected Service Category**

In October 2023, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) conducted a study on the Eligibility of Public Safety Occupation for Enhanced Retirement Benefits. Amongst their findings, the commission confirmed 911 dispatchers play an integral and invaluable role in public safety; have high and excessive psychological demands; and hold, and fulfill, an enormous communal responsibility.

There is a 30 percent turnover rate for 9-1-1 employees, with 30-50 percent vacancy rates in many PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Point). 9-1-1 dispatchers get a top ranking as one of the most stressful occupations, with 49 percent of those dispatchers attributing their work in emergency communications as contributing toward their depression.

Nineteen states have already passed similar recognitions of 9-1-1 telecommunicators as being First Responders. These include, but are not inclusive, of, Maryland, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, New York and West Virginia.

Ultimately, a reclassification of 911 professionals would give call takers greater equity in terms of benefits and access to resources, including mental health support.

➤ **The Commonwealth Fully Funding the Offices of Constitutional Officers**

“The mission of the Commonwealth’s Compensation Board is to determine a reasonable budget for the participation of the Commonwealth toward the total cost of office operations for Constitutional Officers and to assist those officers and their staff through automation, training and other means to improve efficiencies and to enhance the level of services provided to the citizens of Virginia.”

Over the past several years, funding from the state has not kept up with the growth of these offices, requiring additional funding from the localities. This creates a financial burden not only for the localities, but also for the Constitutional Officers who cannot fully fund the operational needs of their office. Prince William County supports the Commonwealth fully funding the total cost of office operations for the Constitutional Officers and not creating additional financial burdens on the localities.

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE**

➤ **Drone Legislation**

Prince William County will monitor and evaluate all legislation that addresses drone and counter-drone technology as it pertains to public safety.

EDUCATION

Prince William County’s Strategic Goal: Advance high-quality learning opportunities that enrich residents and build and strengthen an educated and skilled workforce.

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS**

➤ **Educational Funding Priorities**

- Support full funding for K-12 education, to include increased state funding for operational and capital needs of Prince William County Schools
- Support full state funding for the actual cost of meeting the Standards of Quality (SOQ) requirements, not just the minimum assumed to be necessary by the state
- Support fully funding the Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA) for PWCS support staff, which will ensure that local funding will go toward meeting the needs of the schools, rather than backfilling state reductions or requirements
- Support the General Assembly addressing the findings of the JLARC report, which highlights the underfunding of the Commonwealth’s K-12 public schools

➤ **Higher Education Campuses in the County**

Prince William County supports the higher education campuses within its borders – George Mason University’s Science and Technology Campus and the Northern Virginia Community College campuses in Woodbridge and Manassas—recognizing their vital role in workforce development, innovation and regional economic growth. The county advocates for sustained state and federal investment in these institutions to ensure continued access to quality education and to strengthen partnerships that benefit both students and the community.

➤ **Appropriations to George Mason University for Construction of Student Housing**

In addition, Prince William County supports appropriations to George Mason University that can advance the construction of new student housing, that can add to the quality of life for students, and economic benefit of the county.

➤ **Additional Support for Head Start and Early Head Start**

Prince William County recognizes that the General Assembly provided additional funding to the Head Start and Early Head Start program last year and encourages the General Assembly to review means to make such programs affordable for Virginia families.





# GOVERNMENT

**Prince William County's Strategic Goal:** Provide transparent, exceptional and accessible county services to residents, businesses, and partners

## PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REQUESTS

➤ **Authority Regarding Noise Modeling During the Site Plan Review Process**

The county seeks express authority clarifying local government staff authority to require and review noise modeling during the site plan review process to determine compliance with the locality's noise ordinance.

➤ **Amend Virginia Code § 22.1-182. Use of School Buses for Public and Commercial Purposes**

The county seeks a change to Virginia Code § 22.1-182 to address the reimbursement of the cost of insurance coverage when entering into an agreement with Prince William County Public Schools to use school buses for county programs.

➤ **Clarifications to the Computer & Peripherals Tax Definition**

The county will seek additional tax definitions that can clarify areas such as computer and peripherals taxation to ensure proper enforcement of county tax policy.

## PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

➤ **Public Notice of Advertisements and Procurement**

The county should be able to publish notices of meetings, county activities, land use changes, procurement and other items important to the citizens by means other than hard copy/print newspaper publication to ensure the most visibility to the community. The General Assembly should comprehensively update the publication provisions of state law for local governments to allow the county to communicate with the citizens it serves in efficient means, designed to reach the greatest number of recipients. This could include electronic notices on newspaper websites, instead of only hard copy, and should include prominent placement of such notices on the county's website, social media dissemination and emails to citizens who register for such notification.

➤ **Due Diligence of FOIA Legislation**

Prince William County supports the position that any changes to the Freedom of Information Act should be forwarded to the FOIA Advisory Council for review and recommendations prior to General Assembly consideration or enactment. The county also supports efforts to recover its actual, reasonable costs incurred in responding to a FOIA request pursuant to its adopted FOIA policy.

➤ **Tax Policy Adjustments and Exemptions for Small Businesses**

Prince William County staff will work with the General Assembly delegation and appropriate committee staff to determine policy options that would allow for tax relief for the county's small businesses community. In addition, Prince William County supports a review and analysis that could result in the flexibility to adjust tax rates to maximize the level of fairness across industry sectors.

The county will closely monitor and approach these issues through the Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy and the Joint Subcommittee on Tax Preferences.



## PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE

➤ **Local Government Operations**

Prince William County will monitor and report on all legislation affecting procurement practices, workforce engagement, public health benefits – such as paid family and medical leave - and tax policy.

➤ **Legislation Allowing Sales Tax to Go to Construction of Schools**

Prince William County will monitor legislation that would allow a percentage of the local sales tax to go toward the construction of schools, as determined and voted on via referendum by the residents.





## ENVIRONMENT

**Prince William County's Strategic Goal:** Preserve the county's natural beauty and resources so that open spaces are created and maintained, and residents can enjoy nature.

Prince William County will monitor and report on legislation affecting environmental stewardship, including issues surrounding water quality, including the impact of PFAS, salinity, and microplastics, in addition to those issues contained in the Virginia Association of Counties environment, energy and land use platform.

### PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPPORTS

#### ► Items that Support the County's Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan

Items that Support the County's Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan:

- Advocating for a low-carbon building code/more aspirational codes and energy code updates
- Advocating for a study on the barriers to community choice aggregation program adoption in Virginia
- Advocating for state electrification incentives for utilities and the expansion of electrical infrastructure to accommodate growing building and vehicle electrification; and removing barriers to solar installation such as the Dominion Solar Interconnection Fees for mid-sized projects
- Advocating for additional state support for reducing and mitigating the impacts of flooding in the county
- Advocating for stronger state tree preservation requirement program authority in the Virginia Code

#### ► Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission Study

Prince William County supports findings from the December 2024 Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) study which recommends legislation that would:

- Expressly authorize local governments to require sound modeling studies for proposed data center developments
- Expressly authorize local governments to establish and enforce maximum allowable sound levels for operational data center facilities using alternative low frequency metrics and zoning ordinances
- Expressly authorize local governments to require and consider power load demand estimates for proposed data center developments

In addition, the county supports legislation which seeks to protect utility ratepayers from bearing the costs of infrastructure needs driven substantially by the data center industry, as well as address the risk of generation and transmission infrastructure costs being stranded with existing customers.



### PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE

#### ► Microgrids and Onsite Power Generation

Per the Board of County Supervisors Directive DIR 25-10 (4/8/25), the county will monitor and report on all legislation regarding microgrids, onsite backup power generation, and other onsite backup power generation uses, including, but not limited to, any legislation affecting county regulatory authority and addressing potential impacts.

#### ► Prince William County will also monitor and report on legislation:

- Regarding data centers as related to the recommendations and policy options noted in the December 2024 Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) report
- Affecting environmental stewardship, including issues surrounding water quality, including the impact of PFAS, salinity and microplastics
- Issues contained in the Virginia Association of Counties environment, energy and land use platform
- That addresses bottle bill/recycling programs at the regional and statewide level



# FEDERAL AGENDA

Prince William County continues to be engaged with a docket of issues that have called for the attention of the county’s delegation in the U.S. Congress, and monitoring actions by numerous federal agencies. Some examples include:

- **Federal Budget and Workforce Reductions**
  - Impact to state and local services
- **Housing legislation, to Include Military Housing, as well as Faith-Based Housing**
- **“Institutions for Mental Diseases” Designation and Regulations**
  - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- **Congressionally Directed Spending Projects**
  - Transportation, public safety, infrastructure, environmental stewardship
- **Safer Communities Act**
  - Opportunities for public safety funding
- **National Defense Authorization Act**
- **Surface Transportation Act**
  - Monitor for applicability to county priorities and projects
- **Farm Bill**
  - Monitor for applicability to county priorities and projects
- **Marine Corps Base Quantico**
  - Infrastructure, workforce, housing and related issues
  - Protect (rural) land around military installations
- **Federal parks**
  - Funding, infrastructure, tourism
- **General Services Administration**
  - Federal per diem reimbursement rates

Several of these issues call for a new level of intergovernmental cooperation and consistent communication at the state and federal levels of government.



## Board of County Supervisors 2024-2027

- Deshundra Jefferson, Chair At-Large
- Tom Gordy, Brentsville District
- Yesli Vega, Coles District
- George Stewart, Gainesville District (2025-2027)
- Victor S. Angry, Neabsco District
- Kenny A. Boddye, Occoquan District
- Andrea O. Bailey, Potomac District
- Margaret Angela Franklin, Woodbridge District

## Prince William County’s Delegation to the 2026 General Assembly

### Senators

- Jeremy S. McPike, 29th District
- Danica A. Roem, 30th District
- Jennifer D. Carroll Foy, 33rd District

### House of Delegates

- Rozia A. “J.R.” Henson, Jr., 19th District
- Michelle E. Lopes Maldonado, 20th District
- Josh E. Thomas, 21st District
- Elizabeth R. Guzmán, 22nd District
- Candi P. Mundon King, 23rd District
- Luke E. Torian, 24th District
- Briana D. Sewell, 25th District

## Prince William County, Virginia

### Christopher Shorter

- County Executive
- Office of Executive Management
- One County Complex Court
- Prince William, Virginia 22192-9201

### Glynn Loope

- Legislative Affairs Liaison
- Office of Executive Management
- One County Complex Court
- Prince William, Virginia 22192-9201
- gloope@pwcgov.org





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