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**City of Manassas
2020
Legislative Priorities**

Economic Development

- ✓ We support funding for education and workforce development particularly for Career and Technical Education.
- ✓ We support the strengthening of economic development incentives that spur job creation and retention.

Fiscal Relationship

- ✓ We strongly support maintenance of local revenue authority over local revenues sources such as the Machinery and Tools Tax and the Business and Professional Occupational License Fee. We oppose further state restrictions without a sustainable alternative revenue source and State budget cuts and mandates passed onto local governments. M&T and BPOL revenues represent \$4.93 million and \$3.5 million respectively (9% of City general tax revenue of which 60% is budgeted to support MCPS and would require a 17 cent property tax rate increase to replace).

Transportation

- ✓ We strongly support improvements to VA-28 corridor in the VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program including construction of the VA-28 Manassas Bypass.
- ✓ We strongly 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 securing state funding for the Long Bridge Project for the expansion of passenger rail across the Long Bridge for more efficient Virginia Railway Express service, and the improvement of all Amtrak and commuter rail from Washington, DC to the south.

Education

- ✓ We strongly support increased state funding for K-12 education including the restoration of full funding for the cost of competing adjustment, full-funding for state passed mandates and programs and funding for career and technical education.

Public Safety

- ✓ We support efforts by the General Assembly to address gun violence prevention in Virginia by passing gun safety legislation.
- ✓ Prevention of opioid addiction is vital to limiting the public safety and judicial resources that are being spent to fight this chronic disease. We support alternatives for treatment of addiction that will result in resources devoted to prevention instead of arrest, prosecution and incarceration.
- ✓ We support efforts to increase statewide mental health support (such as diversion centers) to avoid unnecessary incarceration and use of public safety and judicial resources to deal with individuals suffering from mental health disorders.
- ✓ We support full funding of State assistance to local police departments (HB 599) as stipulated in the Code of Virginia.

Land Use

- ✓ We support Chapter 22 of Virginia code 15.2, Planning, Subdivision of Land and Zoning, and oppose any legislation that further reduces local authority for planning, zoning, and mitigating the impacts of new development on our residents, schools and other infrastructure.
- ✓ We support the expanded use of development impact fees or other tools for mitigating the impact of development on local infrastructure (notably schools) and revitalizing our communities.

- ✓ We support the retention of local land use authority in implementation of Wireless Telecommunication.
- ✓ We support amending the existing proffer law (Sec. 15.2-2303) to remove restrictions requiring the calculation of impacts at the time of zoning approval and to repeal, in its entirety Sec 15.2-2303.4(d) that includes provisions related to the reversal of the localities land use decision by a court and the award of attorney's fees.
- ✓ We oppose any further extensions to site plan validity under Section 15.2 – 2209.1 that was first enacted in 2009 to address the housing crisis.

Utilities

- ✓ We oppose regulation of local municipal electric utilities by the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Local regulation of municipal electric utilities should be provided by local officials who are accountable to the utility customer.
- ✓ We support continued investment by the State in the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund for matching grants funding local stormwater capital projects in furtherance of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan.
- ✓ We support continued and increased funding by the Commonwealth, including grants to localities, to address aging public infrastructure and roads.

Virginia Municipal League

- ✓ We support the 2020 VML Legislative Program.