Call to Order - 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

1. Discussion of 2018 Legislative Priorities
   1.1 Discussion of 2018 Legislative Priorities
       Backup: 2018 VML Legislative Program
       Backup: 2018 Legislative Priorities - Draft

2. Authorize a Closed Meeting
   Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) - Personnel Matters Involving the Consideration of
   Candidates for Employment
   2.1 Authorization of a Closed Meeting
       Topic: Personnel Matters Involving the Consideration of Candidates for
       Employment
       Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1)
       Agenda Statement - Authorize a Closed Meeting

3. Certify the Closed Meeting
   3.1 Certification of the Closed Meeting
       Agenda Statement - Certify a Closed Meeting
Adjournment
2018

Virginia Municipal League
Legislative Program
Parks
Animal control
Police
Elementary schools
Building code enforcement
Recreation leagues
Libraries
Water and sewer systems
Public transportation
High schools
Fire services
Health clinics
Garbage collection
Storm water utilities
Behavioral health services
Traffic control
After-school programs
Landfills
Economic development
Street lights
Jails
Building inspections
Emergency medical services
Housing authorities
Services for at-risk youth
Community centers
Middle schools
Parking enforcement
Hazardous materials response
Bookmobiles
Historic preservation
Building permits
Community festivals
Medicaid eligibility
E-911
Dear Legislator:

We look forward to working with you during the 2018 session of the General Assembly on the many issues facing the State and its cities, towns, and counties. While our communities are numerous and diverse, we share the understanding of the need for the State and its local governments to work together to ensure a strong, vibrant future.

Our legislative priorities and program for the 2018 session are outlined in this brochure. Our priorities remain focused on the relationship between the State and local governments, the fiscal sustainability of Virginia’s local governments, and the authority and resources necessary to effectively carry out constitutional and statutory responsibilities.

The Commonwealth relies on local governments to deliver the fundamental services required to ensure healthy communities and a thriving economy. In turn, Virginia’s communities need for the Commonwealth to be a steady, reliable partner for our shared responsibilities. We pledge to work with you and the administration to find productive ways to achieve our mutual goals.

Please let us know if we can supply any information or be of assistance to you in the upcoming months.

Thank you for your service to the people of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Patricia P. Woodbury, Ed. D.
Newport News Council Member
VML President
The Virginia Municipal League adopted the following legislative program for the 2018 session of the General Assembly.

**Top Legislative Priorities**

**State and Local Government Fiscal Relationship**

Governance at the local level becomes ever more challenging as the Commonwealth and the Federal government add new programs, or modify existing program guidelines, and promulgate complex regulations and higher standards for local governments to implement. It is not uncommon for the state and federal governments to either underfund their share of the costs or to ignore them altogether.

To that end, the Virginia Municipal League holds as essential these principles on local taxing and budget authority:

- Specific local revenue authority and sources cannot be further restricted without first granting and providing alternative revenue authority with reliable, sustainable revenue sources. This includes, without limitation, the BPOL and M&T taxes.

- Local governments should be involved in any discussions relating to local taxing authority including legislation that exempts specific industries from local taxes and fees.

- Local general fund revenue and special funds cannot be confiscated or redirected to the state treasury.

- Placing additional administrative burdens on local governments without sufficient resources or administrative flexibility jeopardizes the quality of services delivered at the local level. Local governments cannot be expected to bear the expenses related to the imposition of new funding requirements or the expansion of existing ones on services delivered at the local level without a commensurate increase of state financial assistance or new local taxing authority.

- Shifting traditional state funding responsibilities onto local governments for services including public education, law enforcement, and public safety activities and any core services affecting local government, is bad fiscal policy, resulting in stress on local finances without reductions in overall program costs.

- Imposing state fees, taxes or surcharges on local government services impedes transparency at both the state and local level.
• Any efforts at tax reform must begin with a thorough examination of state tax reform and the financing of state services. The State should reform its own tax structure before taking on the topic of local taxes. State or local tax changes should not negatively affect local revenues.

• State budget cuts to state mandated and other high priority programs should specify the programs to be affected by the cuts.

The Commonwealth should:

• Enter a dialogue with local governments to examine state requirements and service expansions that can be suspended or modified to alleviate to the degree possible the financial burden on state and local taxpayers.

• Examine models in other states that allow for modernizing state and local taxing authority.

• Develop spending and revenue priorities that support economic development, public safety, education and other public goals. State tax credits, tax deductions and tax relief policies must receive the same scrutiny as spending programs as part of the prioritization process.

• In times of revenue crises, review ways to increase revenues to meet constitutional and statutory obligations to Virginia citizens after all other actions have been taken.

• Include local government representatives on any “blue ribbon” commission or other body established by the state that has as its purpose changes to local revenue authority or governance.

Education Funding

A strong public school system is essential to economic development and prosperity. The state must be a reliable funding partner in accordance with the Virginia Constitution and state statutes. The Standards of Quality should recognize the resources, including positions, required for a high-quality public education system. VML opposes changes in methodology and changes in the division of financial responsibility that result in a shift of funding responsibility from the state to localities.

Further, VML opposes policies that lower state contributions but do nothing to address the cost of meeting the requirements of the Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Learning.

Any approach to improving low-performing schools must include adequate state financial support. VML supports increased state funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative, the K-3 reduced class size program and Early Reading Intervention program. VML also supports increased state stipends for highly effective teachers in high-poverty schools, and other innovative programs for teachers and students.
State Assistance to Local Police Departments (HB 599)

Almost 70 percent of Virginians live in communities served by police departments. The state created a program of financial assistance to local police departments (HB599) when it imposed an annexation moratorium on cities more than 30 years ago. It has increasingly de-emphasized this funding obligation as a priority but has never compromised on the annexation moratorium. VML calls for the state to honor its commitment to local governments and public safety by funding the program as stipulated in the Code of Virginia.

Other Legislative Positions (listed in alphabetical order)

Communications Sales and Use Tax

The Virginia Communication Sales and Use Tax was enacted to establish a statewide tax rate and to pre-empt local taxes on communication sales and services. VML supports setting the tax rate at the same level as the state sales tax rate, and broadening the coverage of the tax to include audio and video streaming services and prepaid calling services.

Community Solar

VML supports legislation that would allow for greater flexibility for community-owned solar facilities. VML supports the protection of current net metering compensation.

Full Funding for Virginia State Parks

VML supports full funding for Virginia State Parks, and supports what is needed to adequately maintain and operate current facilities, infrastructure, and authorized future construction, as detailed in the Virginia Association for Parks’ Needs Assessment.

Incentives for In-Fill Development/Tax Abatement

VML supports allowing local governments greater flexibility in creating incentives for in-fill development, including tax abatement for properties that do not have derelict structures.

Landscape Materials

VML supports the ability of localities to regulate the use of specific landscape cover materials or the retrofit of existing landscape cover materials for the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens.
Marijuana Decriminalization

VML supports a change to the Code of Virginia to make anyone found to be in the simple possession of no more than 0.5 oz. of marijuana for personal use subject to a civil rather than criminal penalty. Individuals under 21 years of age found to be in possession should still be required to undergo drug screening and participation in a treatment or education program as a condition of the suspension of a conviction if appropriate.

Medical Use of Marijuana

VML supports the expansion of an affirmative defense to prosecution for the possession or distribution of marijuana if a person has a valid written certification issued by a practitioner licensed by the Virginia Board of Medicine to prescribe cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil for the treatment of, or to alleviate the symptoms of, cancer, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, ALS, MS, PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and other chronic or terminal conditions.

Price Floor for Regional Gas Taxes

VML supports an amendment to Virginia Code §58.1-2295 that would establish a protective floor price for the 2.1 percent regional gas tax, such as was done for the statewide fuels tax in §58.1-2217. Such a floor concept is essential to provide a more stable, dedicated revenue source needed for long-term financing of regional projects.

Public Transit Funding

VML supports increased federal and state funding for public transit; policies that allow for the equitable distribution of such funding; and dedicated sources for such funding, all to avoid the impending fiscal cliff in 2019.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and Commonwealth Resilience Fund

VML urges the General Assembly to address greenhouse gas emissions targets through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) or carbon credit auctions. All proceeds derived from the auction of credits should be used to establish the “Commonwealth Resilience Fund,” a special state-dedicated fund to assist localities in addressing flooding, energy efficiency improvements, and economic development.

Retain Local Land Use Authority in Implementation of Wireless Technology

VML supports the implementation of new wireless technology for all localities and providing service to all residents of the Commonwealth. Localities must retain the ability to exercise current land use authority in the implementation of new wireless technology. Local rights-of-way are public property and proper local management
and maintenance are essential to ensure public safety, to protect the integrity of the property, to guarantee the safety of workers and maintain efficient transportation.

**School Capital Funding Pilot Program**

Local governments pay the majority of public school capital costs. Communities struggle to balance financing the infrastructure and operational costs for 21st century learning environments with other public infrastructure and service needs. The Literary Fund long ago lost its capacity as a viable financing option for most communities’ school capital costs. VML supports new avenues for funding public school construction and renovation costs, including the creation of a pilot program of competitive grants using funds from the Virginia Public Building Authority to offset new construction or renovation costs for publicly owned and operated K-12 schools.

**Statewide Taxing Authority for Transit Capital Needs**

Public transportation is critical to the economy and quality of life of all Virginians. VML supports legislation that would allow localities to adopt additional regional or local taxes to provide needed capital funds.

**Stormwater Local Assistance Fund**

VML supports continued investment in the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund to assist localities with much-needed stormwater projects to meet federal and state clean-water requirements.

**Taxing, Licensing, and Registering Internet-based Businesses and Services**

In taking state action to regulate private enterprises employing a business model that emphasizes the use of the Internet to either provide retail or facilitate lodging or ride-sharing services, local government interests should be acknowledged and localities should be included in the decision-making. As general principles, VML believes state and local policies should (1) encourage a level playing field for competing services in the marketplace; (2) seek to preserve and/or replace local and state tax revenues; (3) ensure safety, reliability, and access for consumers, providers, and the public; and (4) protect local government’s ability to regulate businesses whether they are traditional, electronic, Internet-based, virtual or otherwise.

**Transition of the Commonwealth of Virginia to Next Generation 911**

VML supports the Statewide Transition to Next Generation 911 using the state funds that will be dedicated by the 911 Services Board; this should not be an unfunded mandate for which localities become accountable.
President
Patricia P. Woodbury
Council Member,
City of Newport News

President-Elect
Anita James Price
Vice Mayor, City of Roanoke

At-Large Member
Christina Luman-Bailey
Council Member,
City of Hopewell

Vice President
Thomas R. Smigiel, Jr.
Council Member,
City of Norfolk

At-Large Member
Gene Teague
Mayor, City of Martinsville

At-Large Member
Jill Carson
Council Member,
Town of Pennington Gap

Town Section Chair
A.D. “Chuckie” Reid
Vice Mayor, Town of Farmville

At-Large Member
Laurie DiRocco
Mayor, Town of Vienna

City Section Chair
Willie Green
Vice Mayor, City of Galax

At-Large Member
Ophie Kier
Vice Mayor,
City of Staunton

Urban Section Chair
Shannon Kane
Council Member,
City of Virginia Beach

At-Large Member
Bridge Littleton
Council Member,
Town of Middleburg

Past President
Robert K. Cointer
Mayor, Town of Gordonsville
VML Legislative Committee

Chair: Don Harris, Mayor, Town of Bluefield
Vice Chair: Roger Fawcett, Council Member, City of Suffolk

City Section
Gene Teague, Mayor, City of Martinsville
Mary Person, Mayor, City of Emporia
Dan Sze, Council Member, City of Falls Church (Environmental Quality Chair)
Billy Withers, Council Member, City of Fredericksburg
Benny Zhang, Council Member, City of Williamsburg
Andrea Oakes, Council Member, City of Staunton

Town Section
Don Harris, Mayor, Town of Bluefield
Sheila Olem, Council Member, Town of Herndon
Edward Owens, Mayor, Town of South Boston
Bill Rush, Town Manager, Town of Marion (Community and Economic Development Chair)
Jim Bradley, Council Member, Town of Gordonsville
Phil Miskovic, Council Member, Town of Crewe (General Laws Chair)

Urban Section
Ted Byrd, Council Member, City of Harrisonburg (Transportation Chair)
John Gilstrap, Mayor, City of Danville
John Rowe, Mayor, City of Portsmouth
Roger Fawcett, Council Member, City of Suffolk
Levar Stoney, Mayor, City of Richmond
Thomas R. Smigiel, Jr., Council Member, City of Norfolk
Tina L. Vick, Vice Mayor, City of Newport News
Shannon Kane, Council Member, City of Virginia Beach (Human Development and Education Chair)
Katie Cristol, Board Member, County of Arlington
Christine Snead, Council Member, City of Hampton (Finance Chair)
Raphael “Ray” Ferris, Council Member, City of Roanoke
Robert Ike, Council Member, City of Chesapeake
Street maintenance
Public health
Neighborhood preservation
Recycling
Animal shelters
Cable television franchises
Sidewalks
Voter registration
Child protective services
Courts
Zoning enforcement
Farmers’ markets
Engineering
Consumer protection
Green Government
Street sweeping
Social services
Industrial development
Paratransit
Fire marshal
Electric utilities
Comprehensive planning
Senior citizen programs
Community development
Main Streets
Kindergarten
Elections administration
Adult protective services
Welfare administration
Juvenile detention
County fairs
Natural gas utilities
Airports
Citizen boards and commissions
The Virginia Municipal League is a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan association of city, town and county governments established in 1905 to improve and assist local governments through legislative advocacy, research, education and other services. The membership includes all 38 cities in the state, 160 towns and 6 counties.
Priorities:

**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 $4.85 million and $3.14 million respectively (9% of City general tax revenue of which 60% is budgeted to support MCPS) which equates to a 17 cent property tax rate increase.

**Transportation**
- We strongly support the establishment of a protective price floor for the 2.1% regional gas tax as was done for the statewide fuels tax to support regional transportation like VRE and OmniLink bus services. Without a floor this revenue has fallen by 60% over the past several years.
- We strongly support improvements to VA-28 corridor in the VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program including construction of the VA-28 Manassas Bypass.

**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**
- Due to a retirement (Judge Farris) from the Prince William Circuit Court of the 31st Judicial Circuit of Virginia a vacancy was created. That vacancy was frozen (not filled) and thus did not receive funding. We support the reinstatement of full funding for this position.
- 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 full funding of State assistance to local police departments (HB 599).

**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 continued exemptions to the Proffers Legislation that will allow for local governments to work with developers to mitigate local development concerns.

**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.
**Meeting Date:** November 20, 2017  
**Time Estimate:** 30 Minutes  
**Agenda Title:** Authorization of a Closed Meeting  
**Recommendation:** Authorize a Closed Meeting  

**Motion:**  
*I move that Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss the following, as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1): a personnel matter involving consideration or interviews of candidates for employment or appointment as the City Attorney.*

**Date Last Considered by City Council:** N/A  
**Summary and/or Comments:** If the City Council votes to hold a closed meeting, the Council will be required to certify by motion that the meeting was held in conformance with the amended Virginia Freedom of Information Act.  
**Board – Committee – or Commission Reviewed:** N/A  
**Fiscal Impact:** N/A  
**Staff Contact:** W. Patrick Pate, City Manager  
ppate@manassasva.gov  
(703) 257-8212
### City of Manassas

**Manassas City Council**  
9027 Center Street  
Manassas, VA 20110

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date:</th>
<th>November 20, 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time Estimate:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agenda Title:</td>
<td>Certification of the Closed Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation:</td>
<td>Certify the Closed Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion:</td>
<td><em>I move that the Council certify that, in the closed meeting just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in a closed meeting and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information act cited in that motion.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Last Considered by City Council:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary and/or Comments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal Impact:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Staff Contact:     | W. Patrick Pate, City Manager  
ppate@manassasva.gov  
(703) 257-8212 |