



City of Manassas, Virginia
City Council Meeting

AGENDA

**City Council and MCPS Legislative Breakfast
Manassas Museum
9101 Prince William St
Manassas, VA 20110
Tuesday, July 15, 2025**

The Manassas City Council and Manassas City School Board will receive updates on Legislative Priorities from Senator Danica Roem and Delegate Michelle Maldonado.

Call to Order

Roll Call

1. Legislative Priorities Update and Discussion

- 1.1 2025 Legislative Priorities**
[2025 Legislative Priorities - Addition](#)
[2025 Legislative Agenda](#)

Adjournment



City Council Agenda Item Report

Agenda Item No. 1.1
Submitted by: Eric Smith
Submitting Department: City Manager
Meeting Date: July 15, 2025

Item Title

2025 Legislative Priorities

Suggested Action and/or Recommendation

Suggested Motion

Item Type Other
Submitting Department City Manager
Meeting Body City Council

Item ID 2026-21
Drafter Eric Smith
Meeting Date July 15, 2025

ATTACHMENTS

- [2025 Legislative Priorities - Addition](#)
- [2025 Legislative Agenda](#)



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2025 MID YEAR ADDITIONS

- Noise Abatement Monitoring System – Maryland has piloted a system to monitor and identify excessive vehicle noise violations. Cameras linked to microphones capture video of violators. The City requests consideration of enabling municipalities to utilize similar equipment.
- Bank Data Center Personal Property Tax Exemption - §58.1-1202 of the Code of Virginia specifies that banks pay an annual franchise tax in lieu of personal property taxes. Bank owned data centers do not provide any tax payments for equipment to the municipalities in which they are located. The City requests consideration of specific removal of data center equipment from this exemption.
- Social Services & School Federal Funding Impact – Recent changes in the Federal funding programs have and are anticipated to reduce direct contributions to municipalities for social service and education delivery. The City requests consideration of supplemental funding to offset Federal reductions.
- Disabled Veterans Income Tax Credit – The Commonwealth of Virginia exempts disabled veterans from payment of local real estate taxes, placing a growing burden on municipal revenues. West Virginia offers their disabled veterans a Real Property income tax credit. The City requests consideration of modification of the benefit to disabled veterans.
- Affordable Housing Option – To provide additional affordable housing opportunities, development of faith-based organization property can add to affordable housing development. The City requests consideration of such development conforming to local zoning requirements and building codes.
- School Construction Funding – Reconsideration of the legislation to allow municipalities to adopt a 1% sales tax for school construction if voters approve the tax in a referendum. The City requests reconsideration of the bill vetoed in 2024.



Educational Attainment

- The City of Manassas provides more than two times the required local funding for Manassas City Public Schools. We support actions by the General Assembly to recognize and fund the true costs of public education and significantly increase funding for K-12 education, pre-kindergarten (Pre-K), career and technical education and teacher compensation.
- We support funding formulas that provide additional resources to school divisions with high percentages of English Learners.
- We support divisions in their efforts to provide universal free breakfast and lunch programs.
- We support changes to the Standards of Quality (SOQ) funding formulas that have been recommended by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's (JLARC) K-12 Funding Formula study.



Economic Prosperity

- We support funding for education and workforce development particularly for Career and Technical Education and the strengthening of economic development incentives that spur job creation and retention.
- We support additional funding for Fast Forward, internships, career placement, and other workforce development programs managed by the Virginia Community College System.
- We support local flexibility in the promotion of economic development.

CITY OF MANASSAS COUNCIL

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CITY OF MANASSAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2025



CITY HALL



Community Vitality

- We support local control over land use decisions, including planning, zoning, and mitigating the impacts of new development on our residents, schools and other infrastructure.
- We support elimination of the annexation moratorium as the Commonwealth continues to de-emphasize funding obligations to cities like funding for local police departments (HB 599).
- We support more resources from the Commonwealth to increase home ownership such as down payment assistance and low-interest loans.
- We support the increased use of Advanced Technology programs such as License Plate Readers (LPR's), Photo Red Light and Photo Speed Enforcement programs to improve the safety of our communities and roadways.
- We support increased funding to build community crisis service capacity within Region 2 to supplement bed space needed for Temporary Detention Orders (TDO) while waiting for state bed space to become available and funding for law enforcement standby security services. This would eliminate significant stress and resource allocation for our public safety personnel and local hospitals.
- We support increased state general funding for community-based public health programs, to include programs such as Healthy Families, Comprehensive Health Investment Project (CHIP) of Virginia, Smart Beginnings, and Resource Mothers. These are critical investments in programs that ensure a strong start for children, and can help reduce the need for costlier interventions later in life.

- We support increased efforts to address substance dependency, and these programs must be comprehensive and coordinated with localities. The state should develop and support evidence-based prevention initiatives and should continue to improve access to treatment.
- We support changes in the law enforcement decertification process to ensure confidentiality of Internal Affairs and personnel files during the decertification application process.
- We support the continuation of the grandfathering of the City of Manassas' use of Lake Manassas as a grandfathered water withdrawal facility based on our 5-year average use. The limitation of withdrawal proposed by DEQ would impinge on the City's full use of the lake for City residents (MH20).



Sustaining Excellence

- We support efforts to strengthen and maintain the principles of sovereign and qualified immunity for local governments and their officials.
- We support expansion of local revenue sources and increased local authority over revenues like the Machinery and Tools Tax and the Business and Professional Occupational License Fee.
- We support local control over municipal utilities as local regulation of municipal utilities should be provided by local officials who are accountable to the utility customer.
- We support holding public safety officials accountable to the 21st Century Policing strategies and not the creation of unfunded criminal justice legislation.



Transformative Mobility

- We 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 increased funding for public transit, multi-modal, and alternative mass transit solutions.
- We support amending Virginia Code Section 15.2-1901 to authorize the use of eminent domain for transportation improvements on property contiguous to, but outside the city boundaries.
- We support legislation proposed by the Virginia Airport Operators Council (VAOC) that would define abandoned and derelict aircraft, and the procedures airport operators can take to use, trade, sale or remove the aircraft. This would provide clear guidance for aircraft that have been abandoned or are derelict on premises owned and controlled by the operator of a public use airport.



We support the 2025 VML Legislative Program.