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**2026 City of Hampton Legislative Agenda Update  
Presented by: Ed Reed, Vice President  
Two Capitols Consulting**

# Election Recap & Overview

- **Governor**
  - Former Representative Abigail Spanberger (D)
- **Lieutenant Governor**
  - Senator Ghazala Hashmi (D)
- **Attorney General**
  - Former Delegate Jay Jones (D)
- **House District 87**
  - Delegate Jeion Ward (D)
- **House District 86**
  - Virgil Thornton (D)
- **General Assembly Implications**
  - Democrats sweep all statewide offices
  - House Democrats pick up 13 additional seats
  - New House makeup is 64 Democrats and 36 Republicans
  - Proportional committee makeup shift in the House
  - Senate Special Election to fill Senator Hashmi's seat
  - Potential of a House Special Election

\*\*No Senate election in 2025

# Important Dates

- **November 12th:** Final legislative package approval by City Council
- **November 17th:** Pre-filing drafting deadline for pre-filed legislation
- **November 18th:** House Appropriations Committee Retreat
- **November 20th-21st:** Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Retreat
- **December 17th:** Governor Youngkin presents outgoing budget proposal to the General Assembly money committees
- **January 14th:** First day of the 2026 General Assembly Session
- **January 16th:** Budget amendments due
- **January 17th:** Inauguration Day
- **February 17th:** Crossover
- **March 14th:** Session adjourns Sine Die
- **April 22nd:** Reconvened/veto session

# Policy Position Updates

# Resiliency, Environment & Natural Resources

- Continue to support legislation to provide local governments with 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.
- Request the state provide meaningful, ongoing grant funding to localities' and individuals' flood resilience and climate change adaptation efforts.
- Request that the Commonwealth continue to fund efforts to restore and maintain historic African American cemeteries.
- Request state-level coordination for coastal adaptation efforts.
- Support increased funding for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund along with improved guidelines for the program that increases the project cap, extends the loan period, and delays interest accrual until project completion.
- Support additional investments to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) in Fiscal Year 2026 to meet documented needs.
- ***Removed the item related to trap neuter and release (TNR) for the 2026 General Assembly Session***

# Community Development & Economic Development

- Support maintaining and expanding local authority over land use/zoning issues and decisions (including accessory dwelling units and short term rentals)
- Support increased state funding for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC).
- Request the General Assembly adopt legislation that would allow the creation of local ordinances to eliminate or deter the continuation of nuisance and safety related offenses and violations including increased parking restrictions of commercial vehicles in city neighborhoods
- Support legislation that provide localities with additional tools to address blighted properties
- Support legislation that would provide additional financing and bonding authority/opportunity for the maintenance and construction of entertainment related venues and public facilities.

# Public Education

- Continue to support pay equity for teachers and support staff. The City also supports continued state funding for At-Risk Add On, Transformational High Schools, and the Virginia Preschool Initiative.
- Support the General Assembly maintaining funding of the STEM 360 program as appropriated in the current budget for the Virginia Air and Space Science Center
- Support regional efforts to further expand the inclusion of conflict resolution in Virginia's educational curriculum standards.
- Encourage the General Assembly to implement and fund the JLARC recommendations to more equitably share the costs of K-12 public education with local governments and to ensure the overall success of students across the Commonwealth.
- Support solutions to address school construction and renovation needs

# Fiscal Responsibility & Revenue Generation

- Request that the Governor and the General Assembly refrain from using local governments as a fiscal balance wheel in order to overcome revenue challenges.
- Recommend that state constitutional amendments with local government fiscal impacts require the cost burden to be allocated among all citizens of the Commonwealth so that the citizens of one or only a few localities are not unduly and inequitably burdened.
- **Support efforts to request the Commonwealth offset local real estate and personal property tax revenue losses due to the tax exemptions for disabled veterans program including the support of a statewide study of the local impacts.**
- Support amending the Communications Sales and Use Tax (“CSUT”) to modernize that tax base to capture new technology that is being used to deliver traditional services subject to the tax.
- Oppose any attempt to mandate exemptions to the local option sales tax unless the General Assembly and/or Governor can establish a viable revenue-replacement for localities like Hampton.
- Support the statewide authority for local governments to establish an excise tax on the sale of vaping products.
- Oppose any further local mandate of collective bargaining by the State and retain the current local option authority.



# Fiscal Responsibility & Revenue Generation (cont.)

- Support efforts that provide localities with the same discretion given to the Commonwealth regarding compensation in wrongful incarceration cases in which the person has been declared innocent or received an absolute pardon for a crime the person did not commit. Additionally, requesting the removal of language regarding the withholding of state funding to a locality in such cases.

# Public Safety

- Request that the Code of Virginia be amended to require that jail per diem rates for all offenders held in a local or regional jail be regularly adjusted to reflect changes in cost.
- Request the state to honor its commitment to local governments specific to the local aid to police departments or “599” program.
- Support continued efforts to regulate illicit liquid nicotine, vape, cannabis, cannabis-derivatives, synthetic THC, Kratom, and similar products being sold at local retail stores which put the health and safety of its residents, including juveniles, at risk.
- Support legislation that deters the reckless use of motorcycles, dirt bikes, and other motorized bikes in public spaces
- Support ongoing work to review Virginia’s barrier crimes laws and the impacts of the ability of local governments to engage credible messengers or violence interrupters.
- Support efforts at the state level to provide local relief to the temporary detention order (TDO) and emergency custody order (ECO) processes including providing additional resources to alternative transport services
- Continue working with the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) to reduce the local responsibilities related to ABC store larcenies
- Support efforts to add municipal park rangers, 911 operators and animal control officers to the list of individuals that are eligible to receive enhanced hazardous duty retirement benefits.

# Public Safety (cont.)

- Support efforts that provide authority for a locality to create a “Pop-Up Zone” as a method to maintain public safety in certain areas of a locality when a large-scale gathering is planned or taking place. These “Pop-Up Zones” would have increased enforcement powers and increased penalties for violations.
- Support the continued appropriate use of modern technology like license plate readers to promote public safety.

# FOIA & COIA

- The City of Hampton supports transparent government operations but opposes any legislation that proposes to increase the financial or administrative burden on localities when responding to records requests.

# Transportation & Transit

- Request that the General Assembly appropriate additional funds toward sunken boat removals. The issue of abandoned, sunken, and/or derelict boats is a growing problem in Virginia waterways.
- Support policies to create predictable, adequate, and equitable funding across varying transit modes and regions throughout the Commonwealth. Sustainable funding is critical for reliable transit services that reduce customer exposure to service cuts and fare increases.
- Support expanded legalization of speed cameras and traffic control devices when the area in which they are placed has been documented as an area of concern through speed studies, crash data, or engineering studies. Additionally, advocating for fee revenues to remain locally due to the increased cost of installation and maintenance of such devices.
- Support the creation of a regional aviation authority to consolidate Hampton Roads' airports
- **Support regional efforts spearheaded by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) to create a regional secondary road fund that also provides protection of federal facilities including military installations, and long-term resilience.**

# Legislative & Budget Requests

# Legislative Requests

- Request the City of Hampton be added to the list of localities that may have more flexibility on levying a tax on certain real property at a different rate than the tax imposed upon the land on which it is located due to a vacant status
- The City is requesting legislation adjustments which would enable localities to receive State recycling credits for disposal of residential household trash delivered from Hampton customers to the NASA / Hampton Waste to Energy Steam Plant.

# Budget Requests

- Funding in the amount of **\$2.5 million** for Hampton through the Safer Communities Program. The Safer Communities Program supports holistic, community-based strategies that address the root causes and conditions of community violence.
- Request the General Assembly to appropriate state funding estimated at **\$770,000** for the reestablishment of the Hampton Health District as a standalone district separate from the Peninsula Health District. Currently, the local department of health is operated as a joint partnership between the state and local governments (Hampton, Newport News, James City, Williamsburg, York and Poquoson).
- Support the Coalition for Fort Wool's efforts seeking funding in the amount of **\$4.4 million** for the repair/replacement of the Fort's boat dock/tower and other historic resources.



# City Council Feedback & Discussion