

CITY OF
Alexandria
VIRGINIA



2024
LEGISLATIVE
PACKAGE





The City of Alexandria's legislative package represents a strategic and forward-thinking approach to governance, reflecting our commitment to addressing the unique needs and aspirations of our diverse population. By actively engaging with the Virginia General Assembly, Alexandria seeks to influence and shape legislation that aligns with its values and priorities. The legislative package serves as a comprehensive roadmap, advocating for measures that support affordable housing, education, local autonomy, and sustainable, multimodal transportation. Recognizing the interconnectedness of these issues, Alexandria aims to foster an environment where residents can thrive, businesses can flourish, and the community as a whole can reach its full potential. Through collaborative efforts with the Virginia General Assembly, the city aspires to enact policies that not only reflect its distinct character but also contribute to the broader well-being of the state. By championing legislation that addresses the specific challenges and opportunities faced by Alexandria, the City strives to ensure a more equitable, resilient, and vibrant future for all its residents.

The City of Alexandria supports legislation aimed at protecting and supporting vulnerable and underserved populations, recognizing the fundamental principle that the well-being of a community is measured by the care extended to its most marginalized members. This commitment is rooted in the City's dedication to fostering an inclusive and compassionate environment, where all residents have equal access to opportunities and resources. By advocating for legislation that addresses the unique needs of vulnerable populations, Alexandria aims to create a more just and equitable society. This proactive stance aligns with the City's values of social responsibility and civic engagement, acknowledging that robust support for the underserved not only strengthens the fabric of the community but also contributes to the overall prosperity and harmony of Alexandria. Through this approach, the city endeavors to build a future where everyone, regardless of their circumstances, can thrive and contribute to the collective progress of Alexandria.

The City of Alexandria supports legislation aimed at preserving and expanding local authority and funding for localities, recognizing the pivotal role municipalities play in shaping the well-being and resilience of their communities. By advocating for legislative measures that empower local governments, Alexandria aims to maintain its ability to address the unique needs and priorities of its residents. Local decision-making authority enables the city to implement policies that are contextually relevant and responsive to the diverse challenges and opportunities present within its boundaries. Moreover, securing adequate funding at the local level is crucial for the effective delivery of essential services and the execution of community-driven initiatives.

Alexandria believes that fostering a strong partnership between local and state governments enhances the overall governance structure, ensuring a more responsive, accountable, and effective approach to meeting the evolving needs of its citizens. Through such advocacy, the city seeks to preserve its autonomy, enabling it to adapt and thrive in the face of changing circumstances while best serving the interests of its residents.

The City of Alexandria supports legislation that acknowledges the imperative for state partnership in crucial areas such as affordable housing, education, shared employees, and transit and transportation. Recognizing these sectors as integral components of a thriving community, Alexandria advocates for collaborative efforts with the state to address the multifaceted challenges faced by its residents. Affordable housing initiatives benefit from state collaboration by leveraging resources and policies that can make housing more accessible for all income levels. In education, a state partnership facilitates the development of comprehensive and equitable educational programs, ensuring that every student has access to quality learning opportunities. Shared employees and collaborative initiatives can enhance efficiency and effectiveness in municipal operations, while state involvement in transit and transportation initiatives supports sustainable and interconnected mobility solutions. The City of Alexandria believes that by fostering strong partnerships with the state in these critical areas, a more cohesive, resilient, and prosperous community can be built, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for all its residents.

The City of Alexandria actively supports legislation aimed at enhancing public engagement, health, and safety. Recognizing that an informed and engaged citizenry is essential for the vitality of the community, Alexandria advocates for measures that promote transparency, inclusivity, and accessibility in local governance. By championing legislation that encourages public participation in decision-making processes, the city seeks to empower its residents to contribute to the shaping of policies that impact their lives. Furthermore, Alexandria prioritizes legislation that addresses public health and safety concerns, endorsing initiatives that promote well-being, emergency preparedness, and the creation of safe public spaces. Through these efforts, the city endeavors to create a dynamic and resilient community where the voices of its residents are heard, health is prioritized, and safety is paramount, ensuring a high quality of life for all.

The City of Alexandria is a staunch advocate for legislation aimed at fortifying flood resilience, advancing energy efficiency, and incentivizing clean energy investment. Situated along the banks of the Potomac River, Alexandria recognizes the increasing threat of climate change and the imperative to mitigate flood risks. By supporting legislation focused on enhancing flood resilience, the city aims to protect its residents and infrastructure from the escalating challenges posed by sea-level rise and extreme weather events. Simultaneously, Alexandria is committed to fostering a sustainable future by championing energy-efficient practices and promoting clean energy investments. Recognizing the dual benefits of reducing environmental impact and enhancing economic viability, the city seeks legislative measures that encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources and efficient technologies. By aligning its goals with state-level initiatives, Alexandria aims to create a resilient and environmentally responsible community that serves as a model for sustainable urban living.

2024 Legislative Priorities



The City supports legislation to **extend the mandated July 1, 2025 deadline for the completion of the Alexandria CSO project** by one year and supports **additional State investment** in this generational infrastructure project.

The City supports **policies and investment that ensure the WMATA system is safe, reliable, and financially sound** and that addressing the WMATA funding gap is done without increasing the funding obligation of Northern Virginia localities.

The City supports **statewide programs and funding to address the need for additional affordable housing in our community and to preserve currently affordable housing stock, including an increase in funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund (VHTF)**, one of the Commonwealth's most important tools to assist local and regional efforts in crafting housing affordability solutions.

The City supports **efforts to increase funding for the state's childcare subsidy program and enact changes to increase participation of child-care providers in the program**, including reducing the administrative burden, and increasing reimbursement rates to account for administrative costs and the actual cost of tuition in a locality.

The City supports a comprehensive study and actionable policy and funding recommendations on the **adequate funding of "shared employees"** that better reflects the true cost of compensation for employees supported – either statutorily or practically – through a combination of State and local funds, including employees in our Health Department, Court Services Unit, Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Department, and public schools.

The City requests State matching funds to **complete restoration of Alexandria's historic Douglass Cemetery**.



PRESERVE & EXPAND Local Authority and Funding for Localities

The City supports additional local tools and authority to **protect and expand the stock of affordable housing in the region and across the Commonwealth** and supports legislation and budget items that facilitate a housing economy in Alexandria, and across Virginia, that helps provide the necessary range of price points, safe and sustainable housing options, and the associated services to meet the needs of a thriving city, and a thriving Commonwealth.

The City supports legislation to provide localities with the authority to **regulate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers** and to create **incentive programs to encourage the adoption of energy efficient technologies, machinery, and appliances**.

The City supports legislation to allow localities that supplement their Alcohol Safety Action Programs (ASAP) to **charge a local administrative fee to offset shortfalls in their ASAP budgets**.

The City supports legislation to expand local authority to **utilize automated traffic enforcement solutions** in targeted, data-driven locations.

The City supports legislation to provide localities with the authority to **enforce the provisions of the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act** related to health and safety of tenants, to **establish a vacant building registry**, and authority related to **rent stabilization**.

The City supports legislation to **allow localities to establish more stringent “high performance” or “stretch” building codes** to encourage energy efficiency in our built environment.

The City supports efforts to **protect existing multimodal transportation funding** and to ensure that transportation projects in Northern Virginia continue to receive appropriate funding after decades of underfunding by the state.

The City supports efforts to **modernize the local tax structure**. Short of comprehensive tax reform, the City is supportive of opportunities for additional local revenue authority to increase funding for critical local needs, including transit, transportation, school construction and renovation, and other significant capital needs.

The City supports additional, innovative **school construction funding options for new school construction and the renovation of older school facilities**, including flexibility in bonding capacity, additional local revenue authority, and public-private partnership authority for localities.

The City supports legislation to **provide flexibility to localities regarding the ways in which precinct boundaries can be drawn** to protect neighborhoods and communities of interest.

The City supports legislation to provide permissive authority to local Human Rights Commissions to **enhance their ability to enforce local human rights ordinances**.



The City supports **increased State funding for gun violence intervention programs**, including the Virginia Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund and the Operation Ceasefire Grant Program.

The City supports legislation to authorize localities to **seize illegally operated ATVs and off-road vehicles**.

The City supports legislation that **makes it easier for law enforcement agencies to recruit, hire, and retain officers**, including recruiting and hiring non-citizens who have been in the country for five years and are on the path to citizenship.

The City supports legislation to **increase opportunities for electronic participation by members of public bodies** and members of the public accessing meetings of public bodies.

The City supports efforts to **reform our campaign finance system**, including efforts to enhance disclosure, restrict personal use of campaign funds, and enforce regular auditing.

The City supports legislation to **enhance building safety in the Commonwealth, particularly in high-rise buildings**, including: establishing new reporting requirements and transparency regarding current structural findings by homeowners and condominium associations; granting local building code officials additional authority to proactively inspect buildings and structures in their communities for structural deficiencies; establishing a building inspection/recertification process; and requiring homeowners performing work on a condominium unit that requires a local permit to list a licensed contractor on the permit application.



PROTECT & SUPPORT Vulnerable and Underserved Populations

The City supports efforts to **address learning loss and chronic absenteeism** among Virginia students, especially among disengaged youth and students with higher level, more specialized needs, including special education students, English language learners, and students living in economically disadvantaged households.

The City supports legislation and budget items that **prevent evictions and protect individuals and families who are precariously housed and facing housing challenges**, including legislation to: reinstate the 14-day pay or quit notice; require full fee disclosure and transparency and require any fee increases to coincide with the term of a lease; require that critical lease information be made available in languages other than English; and establish a minimum amount owed for an eviction filing.

The City supports **establishing a refundable Child Tax Credit and strengthening and expanding access to Virginia's newly refundable Earned Income Tax Credit**.

The City supports studies and legislative efforts to **ensure the best possible outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system**, including impacting reunification rates, speeding up permanency, reducing disproportionality, reducing entries, and providing parents access to adequate, effective legal representation and support during child welfare proceedings.

The City supports a Constitutional amendment to **automatically restore the voting rights of people convicted of felonies** when they return to society.



IMPROVE, PROMOTE, & ENCOURAGE

Resilience, Energy Efficiency, and Clean Energy Investment

The City supports efforts to **protect and expand the provisions of the Virginia Clean Economy Act**, with a focus on legislative strategies that provide a sustainable and reliable power grid while achieving lower emission levels associated with renewable energy sources in the Commonwealth.

The City supports efforts to ensure that **current funding sources for flood resilience and energy efficiency projects are, at minimum, maintained and any funding that is removed is replaced**, dollar for dollar, by a dedicated funding source.

The City supports **State investment in clean energy and energy efficiency**, including funding for a State E-Bike rebate program and funding for the existing state electric vehicle rebate program to complement the federal rebate program.

The City supports legislation to establish **innovative energy efficiency incentive and finance programs for residential dwellings**, including condominiums.

The City supports **efforts to make shared solar programs more accessible** to those who cannot access rooftop solar, including increasing program limits and the removal of high administrative fees imposed by utilities on shared solar customers.

The City supports a budget amendment to fund viable Virginia “Buildings UP” projects not funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, which will **convert buildings into more energy-efficient and clean energy-ready homes and commercial spaces**.

2024 Legislative Principles



The City supports...

- Efforts to reduce the local match for the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)
- Legislation and funding that fully fund K-12 education and acknowledge the true cost of K-12 education funding.
- Efforts to ensure that our schools are safe and in good condition, free of environmental health and other hazards.
- Legislation and appropriations that fund or remove unfunded mandates from our local government, provide additional revenue or revenue authority in order to support core municipal operations and services, and support the City's facility needs and plans.
- The preservation of existing state aid to localities.
- The full funding of all state funding commitments to localities and opposes efforts to shift the costs of shared services to localities.
- The Commonwealth's partnership in efforts to attract and retain small and local businesses throughout our City and to cultivate economic development opportunities in our community.



The City supports...

- Legislation and funding that aids our efforts to utilize budgetary, land use, regulatory and other economic development tools to foster sustainable and equitable development, diversify revenue, and allow greater investment in our infrastructure.
- Legislation and budget items that preserve existing local authority and funding for localities, expand local authority and local revenue options, and create opportunities for additional local revenue authority to increase funding for critical local needs, including transit, transportation, school construction and renovation, and other significant capital needs.
- The protection of local authority to plan, zone, and enforce land use regulations, without restricting local zoning authority or the zoning process.
- Legislation that affords localities the authority necessary to encourage smart, appropriate development in our community, preserve the diverse, mixed-income character of our neighborhoods, maintain and expand our stock of affordable housing, and protect the historic character of our City.
- Legislation that affords localities flexibility and additional authority in the areas of hiring and procurement, so localities can provide services efficiently and in a fiscally responsible manner while also encouraging hiring local workers and the involvement of local businesses in municipal projects and services.



ENHANCE

Public Engagement, Health and Safety

The City Supports...

- Legislation and budget items necessary to ensure all residents have access to resources shown to prevent early death and disability and promote resilience.
- Common sense gun safety legislation, especially efforts that focus on youth access to firearms.
- Efforts to ensure that marijuana legalization efforts include protections for children and youth.
- Efforts to reduce inequities in our health system, increase access to necessary, appropriate healthcare for all residents, and achieve health equity related to tobacco use.
- Legislation and funding to ensure access to voting for all Virginia citizens.
- Legislation to protect vulnerable road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians, and help us achieve our Vision Zero goals.
- Legislation that promotes the mental and physical well-being of every resident in our community and provides a system of support for residents with behavioral health needs.
- Efforts to separate access to behavioral health services, care, and support from the criminal justice system.
- Efforts in the General Assembly to identify and maintain adequate resources to respond to the emergent needs of residents experiencing a mental health emergency, including increasing the number of psychiatric beds available in the Commonwealth.
- Legislation to enhance building safety in the Commonwealth, particularly in high-rise buildings.
- Legislation to ensure immigrants, refugees, and their families can fully participate in the economic, civic, social, and cultural life of our city and our Commonwealth.
- Efforts to make membership on public bodies more accessible to residents.
- Individual intellectual freedom and therefore opposes efforts to impose censorship in our schools and libraries.



PROTECT & SUPPORT Vulnerable and Underserved Populations

The City Supports...

- Legislation and funding that helps City staff protect the most vulnerable members of our community, including children, older adults, survivors of domestic and sexual violence, individuals in behavioral health crisis, and those of differing abilities.
- Efforts to protect vulnerable residents who may be precariously housed or living in affordable or subsidized housing in our community.
- Efforts to protect and support transgender and non-binary students in our schools and reinforce school boards in their efforts to allow LGBTQ+ students freedom of expression and ensure their safety.
- Efforts to invest in Pre-K programs, encourage flexibility and creativity in the delivery of VPI programs in our community, and ensure VPI policies and systems promote, rather than limit, parental choice.
- Efforts to increase access to and affordability of high-quality early childhood education and childcare.
- Efforts to invest in maternal and child health, especially in addressing maternal health disparities, and in expanding and diversifying the perinatal workforce.
- Efforts to encourage and incentivize family-friendly workplace policies in businesses throughout the Commonwealth, including the need for paid family leave for all workers.
- Efforts to provide comprehensive crisis mental health care specifically for youth/adolescents.
- Legislation that reforms our criminal justice system so it operates fairly and equitably for all members of our community.
- Legislation and budget priorities that ensure Alexandria has safe, reliable and frequent mobility choices regardless of resources or ability and provide a wide variety of safe, connected, multimodal transportation options in our city that enable access to daily activities in our community and our region.
- Legislation to enact a state prevailing wage and protect workers from wage theft.
- Legislation that assists in the deployment of universal, affordable access to broadband technology, in both unserved and underserved areas, and efforts to ensure a fair and open Internet.

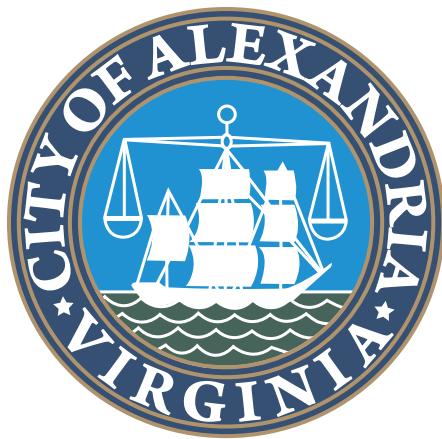


IMPROVE, PROMOTE, & ENCOURAGE

Resilience, Energy Efficiency, and Clean Energy Investment

The City Supports...

- Legislation and the funding necessary to plan for and mitigate urban and inland flooding that is often the result of climate-triggered historic rain events.
- Legislation that assists in our efforts to expand our tree canopy, attain clean air and clean waterways, and increase recycling in the Commonwealth.
- Legislation to increase energy efficiency in existing buildings and to mitigate greenhouse gas emission impacts of the transportation sector.
- Efforts at the General Assembly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth 50% by 2030, including efforts to decarbonize the statewide electricity supply, give communities choice over their electricity supply, and other policy strategies included in the City's Environmental Action Plan 2040.



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