



Board of Supervisors

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Draft 2020 Legislative Agenda





Legislative Agenda 2020

New Kent County Board of Supervisors

Part I. 2020 Legislative Agenda Action Items

1.1. Industrial Co-Products

Industrial co-products are waste products that can be used as soil amendments and consist of process residuals, including coal combustion products, paper mill sludge, wood ash, kiln dust, tobacco dust and foundry sand, that chemically contain plant nutrients and are currently regulated by the Virginia Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services. Currently this material is monitored through testing at the source location, but once it leaves the source there is no monitoring, oversight, or public noticing to the locality and surrounding residents where the material is being applied. We request that Industrial Co-Products be treated as Industrial Residuals, which would be permitted and monitored by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Without oversight of this material, residents have no guarantees that the materials will be applied in a safe manner, and will not have information on who to contact if there are any issues with the application.

1.2 Biosolids and Industrial Residuals

New Kent County request that authority be granted to localities to enact ordinances that regulate the land application of Biosolids and Industrial sludge. New Kent also request that localities be given the opportunity to have their proposed amendments incorporated into DEQ Biosolids and Industrial Residuals permits.

1.3 Broadband

Request the General Assembly to increase the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) fund to assist localities with their efforts to deploy affordable access to high speed internet services (“Broadband”) for the benefit of businesses and education in underserved and rural areas.

1.4 Interstate 64 Widening

Request the General Assembly make the widening of I-64 from Interstate 295 to exit 232 (Lightfoot) a priority, and that the widening occurs with aesthetic sensitivity. I-

64 is the primary gateway to many commercial and tourist destinations, military installations, and all of eastern Virginia. New Kent asks the Richmond based legislative delegations to develop and pursue a long term, unified strategy to accomplish the widening of I-64.

1.5 Transient Occupancy Tax

New Kent County prides itself on the many tourism related businesses and opportunities that are found within County, such as pari-mutuel horse racing, wineries, golf courses, campgrounds, boating, bed and breakfasts, and wedding venues. In order to better promote these facilities, and attract new tourism opportunities, New Kent County request that section 58.1-3819.A (Transient Occupancy Tax) of the Code of Virginia be amended to include New Kent County in the list of localities that may levy a transient occupancy tax not to exceed five percent. The Virginia Code allows all localities to levy a two percent transient Occupancy tax, and for those localities that are permitted to go beyond the two percent cap, they must spend and designate all revenue beyond the 2 percent collection solely for tourism and travel, marketing of tourism or initiatives that, as determined after consultation with the local tourism industry organizations, including representative of lodging properties, and generate tourism revenues in the locality.

1.6 Funding for Alternatives to Groundwater

Request the creation of an Alternative Water Supply Fund would help businesses and communities meet the new groundwater withdrawal requirements, while reducing the depletion of groundwater supplies. Whether new water supplies come from existing surface water withdrawals, reclaimed water usage, or communities banding together to obtain new surface water withdrawals, the costs will be extremely expensive causing businesses and communities to suffer economically, not only in those regions effected, but to the Commonwealth as a whole.

Part II. Position/Legislation Supported by the County

- 2-1. New Kent supports full funding for all legislation mandated for localities by the General Assembly that has a cost associated with it. Also, in the event that funding is no longer provided by the Commonwealth at a future time the mandate would sunset and no longer be binding on the localities.
- 2-2. New Kent supports legislation that incentivizes regional cooperation and service delivery to promote efficiency, mitigate inequities, and overcome barriers that result from Virginia's unique local government structure.
- 2-3. New Kent supports legislation that would provide adequate funding for secondary road maintenance.
- 2-4. New Kent supports legislation that would provide counties with the same local taxing authority as Cities and Towns to enact local excise taxes such as the authority to levy and collect a tobacco tax.

- 2-5. New Kent supports the state's goal that agencies and their representatives at the local, regional, state, and federal levels be able to communicate using compatible systems to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations and major emergencies. Local governments require dedicated federal and state funding sources to achieve this goal.