

# RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

The 33 members of the RRPDC Board represent nearly one million Virginians residing in an area of over 2,165 square miles. The Board meets monthly to promote regional collaboration and address issues of regional significance.

Questions regarding the 2010 Legislative Agenda should be forwarded to:

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## RRPDC MISSION STATEMENT

To strengthen the quality of life throughout the Richmond Region by serving as a regional forum of member local governments to address issues of regional significance, providing technical assistance to localities, and promoting and enhancing the collective consensus on the economic, transportation, social, environmental and demographic interests of the Region.

*Richmond Regional Planning District Commission*

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## RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION 2010 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Richmond Regional Planning District Commission is pleased to present the following Legislative Agenda which was unanimously approved by the 33-member Board on December 10, 2009.

The nine member jurisdictions of the RRPDC are:

Town of Ashland  
County of Charles City  
County of Chesterfield

County of Goochland  
County of Hanover  
County of Henrico

County of New Kent  
County of Powhatan  
City of Richmond



## Governing Locally

We **SUPPORT** local government autonomy to make policy decisions on local issues, particularly concerning land-use regulation and local revenue measures.

We **SUPPORT** a resolution directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to examine the impact of the Dillon Rule on local government's ability to efficiently address local issues such as public safety, land use, and revenue.

We **SUPPORT** giving counties equal taxing authority as cities and towns.

### REGIONAL FACILITY COOPERATION

We **SUPPORT** a resolution directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to examine the costs and benefits of the Commonwealth establishing incentives to localities for the joint utilization of existing capital facilities, joint construction of capital facilities, and joint provision of operating services.

### FUNDING MANDATES

We **SUPPORT** full funding of all state mandates on local governments.

We **OPPOSE** the continuation of existing unfunded mandates or the creation of new unfunded mandates.

We **SUPPORT** thorough analysis and consideration of the impact on local government budgets and services before adopting, creating, or implementing new regulations or programs.

### FILLING VACANCIES

We **SUPPORT** providing local jurisdictions with the option to fill a vacancy on a governing body through a timely special election. Currently, if a vacancy occurs less than 120 days before an election, the county must wait until the following general election to elect a replacement (see Va. Code Ann. § 24.2-226), which could result in an unelected appointee serving for up to 16 months.

## Environment

We **SUPPORT** the protection and enhancement of Virginia's natural resources through environmental regulations and programs that:

- are based on well-researched scientific foundations;
- have demonstrated an ability to achieve meaningful improvements to the environment;
- offer short and long-term solutions;
- fully consider unintended consequences; and
- can be implemented in a cost-effective manner and in a reasonable time period.



### STORMWATER REGULATIONS

We **SUPPORT** a delayed implementation of the Commonwealth's stormwater regulations to allow state and local policy-makers to consider and analyze the program's funding mechanisms, economic impacts, and unintended consequences.

We **SUPPORT** regulations that provide a nutrient reduction goal for individual jurisdictions, but allow local government flexibility in determining the best approach to meet the goal.

We **OPPOSE** regulations that fail to provide local funding to cover the full costs of implementing and maintaining the stormwater program.



We **OPPOSE** a generalized standard for all development that fails to consider the size, location, or type of development.

We **OPPOSE** stormwater regulations that hinder redevelopment or infill development opportunities.

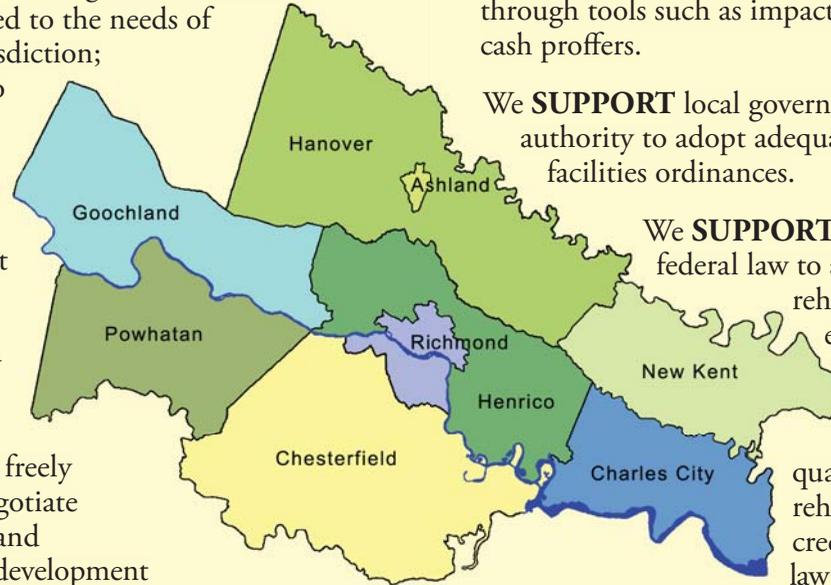
## Growth

We **SUPPORT** strengthening local government authority to manage future growth in the Region.

### GROWTH MANAGEMENT TOOLS

We **SUPPORT** local growth management tools that:

- can be tailored to the needs of the local jurisdiction;
- are flexible to the specific needs of locations;
- are simple to implement and easy to understand;
- transparently allow all parties of interest to freely and fairly negotiate agreements; and
- only require development to contribute its fair share once for



infrastructure improvement.

### PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

We **SUPPORT** growth that maximizes public infrastructure investment, including infill development and redevelopment of areas where existing infrastructure is under-utilized.

We **SUPPORT** local government authority requiring new development to cover the costs of expanding public infrastructure through tools such as impact fees and cash proffers.

We **SUPPORT** local government authority to adopt adequate public facilities ordinances.

We **SUPPORT** changing federal law to allow rehabilitation expenditures for public school buildings to qualify for the federal rehabilitation tax credit. Current federal law allows for tax credits when a historic school is rehabilitated and used by another user, but not where the buildings are reused as public schools.

## Public Safety Funding

We **SUPPORT** full funding of the Commonwealth's commitment for local law enforcement assistance, including Compensation Board funding for Sheriff's offices and HB 599 funding for police departments.

We **OPPOSE** further cuts to local law enforcement funding.

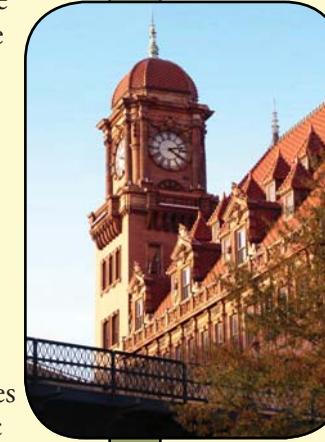
We **OPPOSE** all efforts to restrict or eliminate HB 599 funding.

## Transportation

We **SUPPORT** the development of funding mechanisms to meet the state's current and future transportation funding needs.

### COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

We **SUPPORT** the addition of a third urban at-large seat to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to be filled by a resident of the Richmond-Petersburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (see Va. Code Ann. § 33.1-2). Historically, the two urban at-large seats are filled with citizens residing in the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads areas.



### RAIL ENHANCEMENT FUND

We **SUPPORT** the addition of "federal funds" to the list of matching sources for projects seeking funding from the Commonwealth's Rail Enhancement Fund (see Va. Code Ann. § 33.1-221.1:1.1). Currently, the code only allows matching contributions from private sources, local government sources, or a combination of both.



### HIGH-SPEED RAIL EXTENSION

We **SUPPORT** the extension of high-speed rail from Washington, DC to the Richmond Region.