



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ORANGE COUNTY RECEIVES AN “A” FROM VIRGINIA COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT STUDY

Orange County, VA – The Virginia Coalition for Open Government has released study results on every city and county in Virginia, grading how effective they are at providing easy online access to their annual budgets. The coalition examined the website of every independent city and county in Virginia. Orange County was one of eighteen localities in the Commonwealth to receive an A(+/-).

The study measured a number of variables related to transparency with budgets, which the Coalition calls “the most literal way a government can be held accountable.” Questions were answered such as: “How many clicks does it take to get to a budget document?” and “Do the hyperlink labels for the clicks use the word ‘budget’?” Orange County has a direct link on its homepage titled “budget,” which displays not only the current adopted fiscal year’s budget but also the past four years of completed budgets.

Board of Supervisors Chairman S. Teel Goodwin stated, “Effective, Reflective Government is a guiding principle of the Board of Supervisors. We strive to be transparent in our work in an effort to remain accountable to our citizens. Providing online access to the budget is one part of this effort.”

The County’s is slated to launch a new website in May, 2013. The principle of Effective, Reflective Government has defined the County’s approach to the new website. The budget will continue to remain available on the County’s homepage with several years of prior adopted budgets accessible for viewing at all times.

For more information on the County’s website or the guiding principles of the Board of Supervisors, please contact Julie G. Summs, County Administrator, at (540) 672-3313.

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