



## Orange County, Virginia

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### 2017 Legislative Priorities

#### **State Funding**

##### ***Locally-Delivered State Services***

Orange County supports the Commonwealth's commitment to fund its fair share of locally-delivered state services in the areas of public education, public safety, and health and human services. Further, Orange County opposes mandates from the Commonwealth which are inadequately funded.

##### ***Health and Human Services***

Orange County supports state policies and funding to ensure the Commonwealth's at-risk families have access to high quality and appropriate services. The Commonwealth should fully fund localities for state-mandated human services and provide the necessary program flexibility to enable localities to provide comprehensive and case-tailored services.

##### ***Unfunded Teacher Pension Liability***

Orange County supports the Commonwealth in accounting for its proportional share of the liability by paying its current share of teacher pension contributions directly to the Virginia Retirement System.

##### ***Children's Services Act (formerly known as Comprehensive Services Act)***

Orange County supports state funding with no local match required to cover the full cost of educational services for children placed through Medicaid into a Psychiatric or Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) for non-educational reasons. Further, Orange County supports continued meaningful efforts by the Commonwealth to fully integrate Medicaid-only placements into the CSA system, or to determine another funding mechanism that does not require local dollars. If another reasonable funding mechanism cannot be identified, Orange County supports that all public funding for the placement of a child in a PRTF require an agreement through CSA with the involvement of the local Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) and local Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT). This collaboration creates opportunity for locality-based, multi-disciplinary case planning and funding for education, which would be covered by CSA, while the treatment services would be reimbursed by Medicaid.

#### **Land Use**

Orange County supports maintaining its existing and historic statutory authority and discretion in the areas of land use and development. The ability to adequately plan, zone, and enforce land use regulations is necessary to maintain our quality of life and to support an environment which supports business investment.

#### **Economic and Workforce Development**

##### ***Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund***

Orange County recognizes the importance of the existing state-local partnership to create a competitive advantage for new and expanding business which will create jobs for our citizens. The County supports continued availability of the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund as a

discretionary incentive available to the Governor to secure business location or expansion projects.

### ***Tourism***

Orange County understands the benefits of a balanced economic development program which targets new or expanding businesses as well as promotes and grows local tourism assets. Continued funding of the Virginia Tourism Corporation will provide valuable support to our local tourism program.

### ***Workforce Development***

Orange County supports continued state funding for workforce training programs, particularly those focused toward community college and K-12 public education.

### **Broadband**

The availability of broadband in a community will serve as a positive influence in advancing a community's economic well-being and quality of life. Orange County supports the Commonwealth in continuing its efforts to promote public-private partnerships which can deploy universal, affordable access to broadband in underserved and rural areas. These efforts should focus on economic incentives, budgetary appropriations, and statutory policies in the areas of public safety, public education, economic and workforce development, and telemedicine.

### ***House Bill 1347 - Wireless Communications Infrastructure Act***

Orange County opposes this proposed legislation unless it is substantially revised to protect a local governing body's land use decision-making authority; to give the local governing body clear discretion to set fees or charges which recover application review and processing costs; to allow information to be submitted by wireless service providers to the local governing body during the permitting process which aids the assessment of the project vis' a vis' its impact or benefit to the health, safety, and welfare of the locality; and, to recognize the right and ability of the local governing body to set charges for use of its property and rights-of-way by wireless service providers.

### **Finances**

#### ***Taxing Authority***

Orange County supports keeping its existing taxing authority. Like most similarly-situated counties, there is too great a reliance on the real property tax to provide adequate funding for necessary public services and operations - from schools to public safety and libraries to social services. Further restricting or eliminating other local revenue sources, such as machinery and tools taxes, will increase the tax pressure on property owners. Orange County supports legislation granting counties taxing authority equal to that of cities and towns.

#### ***Taxing Authority for the Improving and Paving of an Existing Street or Streets***

Orange County supports the amendment of §15.2-2404 (Authority to impose taxes or assessments for local improvements; purposes.) of the Code of Virginia, which would allow the County, under certain circumstances, to impose taxes or assessments upon the abutting property owners for the initial improving and paving of an existing street or streets.

## **Transportation**

### ***Devolution of Secondary Roads***

Orange County opposes any legislation or administrative initiatives which would transfer to counties the responsibilities to construct, maintain, or operate new or existing roads.

### ***Primary and Secondary Road Funding***

Orange County supports increased state funding for primary and secondary road construction and maintenance. Existing state revenue sources for local transportation needs, particularly safety improvements, are no longer adequate to meet the County's current and future transportation needs. Consequently, this situation creates frustration for our residents and serves as disincentive for businesses to locate or expand in our community.

## **Education Funding**

Orange County supports the current practice whereby all year-end funds appropriated to the school division revert to the locality, retaining discretion with the governing body to evaluate and approve the reallocation of year-end fund balances.

## **Environment**

### ***Water Quality Improvement Funding***

Orange County supports effective partnerships among and across all levels of government to improve water quality. Orange County supports the goal of improved water quality, but opposes provisions of any strategy that penalizes local governments by withdrawing current forms of financial assistance or imposing monitoring, management, or similar requirements on localities without providing sufficient resources to accomplish those processes. Orange County opposes the imposition of a state fee, tax, or surcharge on water, sewer, solid waste, or any service provided by a local government or authority.

### ***Water Supply and Resources***

Orange County requests that the Commonwealth conduct a review of regulations, and supports education to promote reclamation of water on a local level for industrial and irrigation uses to offset future demands on all ground and surface water used for human consumption in the Commonwealth. Orange County also supports appropriations adequate to ensure full funding by the state for the ongoing development and implementation of state-mandated water supply plans, and encourages regional approaches, as appropriate.

### ***Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Opt-Out Provision***

Orange County strongly opposes any recommendation or effort to reverse or amend the action taken by the 2014 General Assembly in affording counties and cities the statutory right to "opt out" of administering the Virginia Stormwater Management Program.