



Board of Supervisors

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# 2019 Legislative Agenda





## Legislative Agenda 2019

### New Kent County Board of Supervisors

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#### Part I. 2019 Legislative Agenda Action Items

##### 1.1 Broadband

Request the General Assembly to assist private providers in their efforts to deploy affordable access to high speed internet services (“Broadband”) for the benefit of businesses and education in underserved and rural areas. State assistance should include economic incentives as well as statewide budgetary and statutory policies that facilitate broadband-deployment.

##### 1.2 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 occur 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.

##### 1.3 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.

1.4 Primary Elections

Request that the General Assembly direct the appropriate sub-committee to study the impacts of changing the date of Virginia's June primaries from the second Tuesday of the month to the third Tuesday of the month so that elections are held when most schools across the state are closed. This request is asked due to concerns of student safety and voter access to the polls while school is in session. Many localities that utilize schools as polling precincts, experience significant inconveniences, as school activities have to be modified, and increased security procedures have to be implemented.

1.5 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.

1.6 Emergency Services Assistance

Over the past five years New Kent has experienced a 45% increase in emergency service transports resulting from incidents within the County. Approximately one quarter of all transports resulted from incidents on Interstate 64. Being a small rural locality, emergency service transports take needed resources away from the County, and on many occasions have left New Kent in a "No Units Available" status. New Kent County request that the General Assembly provide financial aid to localities to assist with the provision of emergency services on Interstate Highways. Aide should be formula based, taking into account highway miles, population, and a locality's ability to support such services.

**Part II. Position/Legislation Supported By the County**

- 2-1. In regards to the Compensation Board's workgroup to examine the effects of body-worn cameras on workloads in Commonwealth Attorneys' offices for the purpose of developing recommendations for possible budget or legislative action for the 2019 legislative session. New Kent would oppose unfunded mandates for localities to fund new Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney positions. Localities currently expend significant funds supplementing salaries and positions funded by the Compensation Board in Constitutional offices. Providing additional staff should be a decision made at the local level. Such a budget amendment does not allow for potential consideration of other solutions to the issue of reviewing body camera footage, such as exploration of technological assistance and other staffing options.
- 2-2. 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.

- 2-3. 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.
- 2-4. New Kent supports legislation that would provide adequate funding for secondary road maintenance.