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Subject to Final Adoption by the Board of Supervisors

County of Albemarle
Board of Supervisors

2027 Legislative Program

LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

Virginia Code Amendments

1. *Expand authority to use photo speed monitoring devices*
2. *Enable localities to independently set Machinery and Tools tax rates*

Budget Amendment

3. *Funding for the 5,000 Families Program*

Virginia Code Amendments

1. **Expand authority to use photo speed monitoring devices**

Summary

Amend *Virginia Code* §§ 46.2-882 and 46.2-882.1 to enable the use of photo speed monitoring devices on segments of secondary roads where speeding has been identified as a problem.

Description

The enabling authority would be implemented by ordinance and would apply only to segments of secondary roads having posted speeds of 35 miles per hour or higher with speeding, crash, or fatality data supporting the need for additional speed enforcement. In addition, the selected road segments would be required to have signs posted informing drivers that such devices are being used to monitor speed.

Rationale

This initiative would give localities the option to use photo speed monitoring devices as an enforcement tool on designated segments of secondary roads where speeding is prevalent. Using such devices would promote safety both of the public, by providing broader enforcement of speed limits, and of law enforcement officers, who are otherwise making traffic stops on potentially dangerous road segments (e.g., segments without shoulders or with limited sight distance). Additionally, the use of technology where human intervention is unnecessary would allow law enforcement officers to do other critical police work.

2. **Enable localities to independently set Machinery and Tools tax rates**

Summary

Amend *Virginia Code* § 58.1-3507 to enable localities to set tax rates on Machinery and tools higher than the rates imposed on tangible personal property.

Description

Virginia Code § 58.1-3507 requires that the tax rate imposed by localities for Machinery and tools not exceed the rate imposed upon the general class of tangible personal property. The proposed amendment would allow all localities to impose a higher tax rate on Machinery and tools.

Rationale

Machinery and tools taxes are primarily paid by business whereas personal property taxes are primarily paid by individual taxpayers. Enabling localities to decouple these tax rates allows for revenue generation more equitable to individual taxpayers.

Budget Amendment

3. **Funding for the 5,000 Families Program**

Summary

The 5,000 Families Program is a proposed state-funded pilot program that would provide direct rental assistance to 5,000 low-income Virginia families with school-aged children. The request is for an appropriation of $80,000,000 added to the 2027-2028 biennial budget.

Description

The budget amendment would provide funding to the Department of Housing and Community Development to administer the program and provide direct rental assistance to eligible Virginia families.

Rationale

Families across Virginia continue to be affected by affordability challenges, the high cost of living, and insufficient affordable housing. The 5,000 Families Program would provide direct assistance to 5,000 eligible families across Virginia and provide a demonstration as to how a state-administered direct housing subsidy program could operate.

PRIORITY ISSUES

1. **Long-Term Transportation Funding and Investment**

Virginia needs a sustainable, forward-looking transportation funding system capable of meeting long-term statewide and regional mobility needs. Albemarle supports a statewide effort to evaluate existing funding mechanisms, identify Virginia's long-term transportation demands, and develop durable, predictable solutions for road maintenance, multimodal improvements, and project delivery capacity.

2. **Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)**

Albemarle supports legislative authority for a dedicated regional funding source for CARTA. As regional partners complete implementation planning, early state engagement is essential to prepare for future legislative requests.

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The following high-level legislative principles supplement the County's specific legislative priorities and provide guidance for staff and legislators in determining whether the County supports certain legislation.

In addition to supporting the legislative program of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), Albemarle County also supports legislation that:

- Advances the County's Strategic and Comprehensive Plans
- Expands local authority related to land use and taxation
- Provides adequate state support for state-mandated activities, including public education
- Promotes environmental sustainability

Specifically, Albemarle County encourages legislators to:

Economic Development

- Support legislation that furthers Albemarle County's economic development strategic plan goals, including state support for specific economic development projects and regulatory flexibility.

Growth Management, Environmental Protection, and Land Use

- Oppose legislation that erodes local authority over land use matters;
- Support legislation that enhances local authority or provides funding related to environmental sustainability.

Health and Human Services

- Support legislation that benefits community members or enhances the ability of local Departments of Social Services to better perform their work.

Housing

- Support legislation that promotes the production and preservation of affordable housing, whether through state support or enhanced enabling authority.

Local Government Finance

- Support equal taxing authority of cities and counties, funding for state-supported services, and fully funding state mandates.

Public Safety

- Support legislation that promotes the safety of residents, including authority over traffic regulation, and the safety initiatives of the Albemarle County Police and Fire Rescue Departments.

Solid Waste

- Support legislation that reduces waste generation, improves recycling and composting rates, reduces litter, and increases diversion of materials sent to landfills.

Transportation

- Support adequate state funding for transportation, including transit and multi-modal improvements.