

Board of Supervisors:  
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THE COUNTY OF  
**POWHATAN**  
VIRGINIA

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County Administrator  
Patricia A. Weiler

## *Powhatan County 2016 Legislative Agenda*

The Powhatan County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests legislation to address the following priorities for the 2016 General Assembly session:

### ***1. Fully Reimburse Localities for the Cost of Political Party Primaries and Mandatory Voting Machine Upgrades***

The Code of Virginia (§ 24.2-509-A) permits political parties to choose their candidates by either convention or primary, and requires localities to pay for the cost of primaries (§ 24.2-518). Powhatan County respectfully requests legislation requiring full compensation for the cost of political party primary elections conducted by localities at the direction of The Commonwealth. In addition, the County requests full reimbursement in the amount of \$113,105 for the ten optical scanners and 13 ADA compliant ballot marking devices that the County was mandated to purchase this year prior to the June 2015 primary due to the immediate decertification of the WinVote.

### ***2. Department of Transportation – Restore Funding to the Route 711 (Huguenot Trail) Widening Project – VDOT UPC# 86442***

Powhatan County respectfully requests the General Assembly restore the \$7,059,000 in funding removed from the project by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in October 2014. The project was fully funded in the approved 2014-2019 Six-Year Improvement Program. Restoration of full funding for the \$21 million project will widening the corridor between the Powhatan/Chesterfield County limits and Rt. 288 to four (4) lanes and replacement the bridge over Bernard's Creek to improve safety, reduce congestion, and provide reliability along the corridor. VDOT has completed preliminary engineering and is currently acquiring the necessary easements and rights-of way and has begun the relocation of the utilities along the corridor. The project is scheduled to be advertised for construction in the fall of 2015 to facilitate construction commencing spring 2016.

### ***3. Telecommunications - Affordable Access to High-Speed Internet Services***

The Board seeks assistance from the Commonwealth and Federal Government that will encourage and facilitate the deployment of high-speed internet services ("broadband") to all underserved and rural areas of the Commonwealth while preserving local land use, permitting, and other regulatory authority.

Assistance should include the provision of economic incentives and favorable financing mechanisms, as well as the adoption of budgetary and statutory policies that facilitate greater broadband deployment and usage.

The availability of affordable access to high speed internet service is critical to advancing a community's educational and economic well-being and quality of life. Powhatan County supports the Commonwealth in continuing its efforts to promote public-private partnerships to deploy universal, affordable access to broadband in underserved and rural areas. These efforts should focus on the provision of economic incentives, budgetary appropriations, and statutory policies that facilitate greater broadband deployment in the areas of public safety, public education, economic and workforce development, and telemedicine.

Powhatan County seeks assistance from the Commonwealth with securing access to existing regional broadband networks established by funding provided by the Commonwealth or its Authorities, Boards, or Commissions, and funding to support deployment of broadband in the community.

**4. *Increase Technical Assistance Funding Percentage for Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program and Fully Fund the 100% Agricultural Cost Share Program***

The Board requests legislation to increase the technical assistance percentage allocated to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to administer the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) program from 8% to a level closer to the actual cost of providing the service, which is 20%. Technical assistance for cost share projects includes activities such as on-site assessment of required practices, development of plans showing suggested practices, cost estimate of plan implementation, construction oversight and inspection during installation of practices, various administrative duties associated with the processing and tracking of cost-share applications and post construction monitoring of all projects as all practices installed under this program must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years. The 2014 VACS program incorporated changes that now allow for funding of livestock exclusion practices at 100%. This change has generated upwards of 75 new applications while not providing any additional funding to administer the increased workload associated with processing those applications.

**5. *Policy Statement on State Water Control Board Nutrient Allocations***

Powhatan County strongly opposes any legislation that would require or allow the State Water Control Board to revise existing nutrient allocations of existing facilities for the purpose of transferring allocations to new facilities. Powhatan County opposes any new legislation that proposes to amend existing nutrient allocations for facilities with unused or surplus allocations and opposes any legislation that would alleviate the responsibilities of new facilities for their own nutrient loading on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Powhatan County's Water and Wastewater Master Plan, adopted in 2015, relies on the nutrient allocations currently assigned to the County for future use.

**Approved by the Powhatan County Board of Supervisors on November 16, 2015.**

Signed: William S. Matton  
Chairman, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors