

The Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

October 2010

THE BULLETIN

Volume 60, Number 3

Federation Membership Meeting

◆ ◆ ◆
Thursday, October 21, 2010
7:30 p.m.

Note New (Temporary) Location

Braddock Hall

9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA

Topic: 2011 State Legislative Program

◆ ◆ ◆
2010 Federation Board Meetings

October 28, 2010 (fourth Thursday)
South County Center
8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Va 22309
7:30 p.m.

Past Presidents Meet the President

President Obama spoke to a small group, including two past presidents of the Federation, at a couple's home in Fairfax, Virginia on Monday, Sept. 13, 2010.. Pictured below is John Jennison, left, former President of the Federation, and Bridget Jennison with President Obama. Representative Gerry Connolly, another past President of the Federation, also was present.



President's Message

Greetings Friends and Neighbors:

As Fall arrives, the Federation is working along on the many agenda items for this year. Our priority still remains our membership recruitment and retention. Please take a moment to look in your mailbox for the renewal reminder. We hope to see you at our events very soon. The Federation continues to play a big part in amplifying community voices on issues that are common to many across the county. We also strive to connect communities to each other so that ideas and information can be shared and built upon. You are a big part of the Federation's success and aspiration.

By newsletter distribution time, we will have already testified at the House Redistricting Hearing that would take place on Oct. 5. The Federation's testimony supports and promotes a redistricting plan that would emulate the Iowa Plan. The Iowa Plan lays the foundation of redistricting in a non-partisan manner as it takes into consideration population density rather than voting majority surrounding any particular magisterial district boundary. We will publish our testimony in the next newsletter and post it on our website.

Our October 21, 2010 Membership meeting is on our Legislative Program. You are welcomed to provide comments on the 2011 Federation's Legislative Program via email to Frank Anderson, our Legislative Chair, at FedLegislationChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org. Along with our legislative priorities, one of the highlights of our program is the Citizen's Initiative where any county resident or non-profit organization can submit a legislative item for consideration. Once a Citizen's Initiative item is approved by the membership, it is added to and becomes part of the Federation's Legislative Program. Please visit our web page (www.FairfaxFederation.org) and click on [Legislation](#) at the left, then on the Legislation page, click on [Legislative Program](#). A first draft is also published in this newsletter for your convenience.

Last but not least, Federation officers are truly appreciative of your invitations to visit your communities. We look forward to working with you and your community, especially to build those bridges that connects our communities so that we can share ideas.

With Best Regards,

Tania

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Directions to Next Membership Meeting

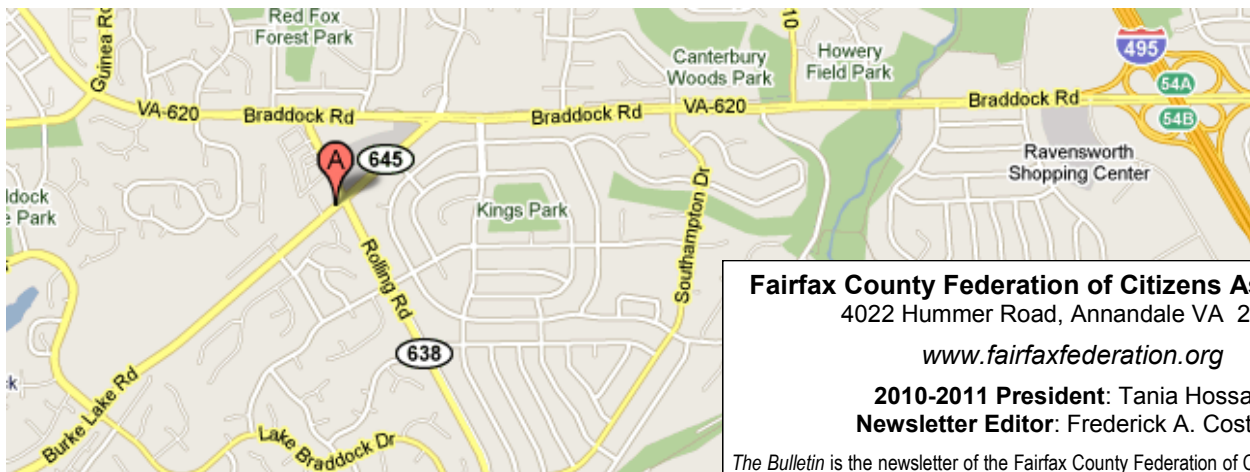
Braddock Hall

Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Braddock Road (Route 620 - Exit 54);
go west 1.5 miles toward Burke.

Turn left at traffic signal onto Burke Lake Road.

Go 0.3 miles, immediately after crossing Rolling Road, turn right into the parking lot

After entering the building, turn left into the meeting room



Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2010-2011 President: Tania Hossain

Newsletter Editor: Frederick A. Costello

The Bulletin is the newsletter of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. It is usually published monthly, with the exception of July and August. The purpose is to provide information to member communities, federal, state, and local officials, and other interested persons. Articles reflect the view of their author and may be reprinted with the use of the following citation: "The Bulletin of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations".

Please contact Fred Costello with newsletter name and address changes, comments, or suggestions. at 703-620-4942 or FedBulletinEditor2010@fairfaxfederation.org..

Federation Meeting Cancellation Policy

If either Fairfax County Government or Schools are closed after 12:00 noon the day of a Federation membership meeting, or if it is announced that Fairfax County Government or Schools will be closed the day after a scheduled Federation membership meeting due to inclement weather or other emergency, the Federation will not hold that event. This does not pertain to regularly scheduled closures. Membership meetings will not be rescheduled, although speakers may be asked to attend an upcoming meeting. We will make every attempt to post the cancellation on www.fairfaxfederation.org or, for more information, you can call 703-620-4942.

Visit us at
www.fairfaxfederation.org

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 16, 2010
Braddock Hall, Burke, VA

[Draft submitted for approval at the October meeting](#)

The September 2010 meeting of the membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:35 p.m. The attendance list is attached to the file copy of the minutes.

Program: Report from Richmond

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale discussed issues facing FCPS. Dr. Dale began, supported by a four-page handout, by explaining the status of the Priority Schools commitment to close the achievement gap in elementary and middle schools.

Dr. Dale reported that FCPS will receive \$21.3 M from the federal jobs bill for instructional-related positions; he had just learned the amount on September 7. Because of the mismatch between Federal and county fiscal years, there is some leeway on when to spend these funds.

Noteworthy: Nationally, Thomas Jefferson is the top ranked high school and all FCPS high schools rank in the top 3 to 4%.

Other topics that arose during the discussion included:

- Possible uses of stimulus/job bill funds within guidelines
- School lunch policies and issues, including local food procurement
- Anonymous student protection program
- Vending machine policies
- Outlook for employment levels and employee raises
- Expected future county funds transfers
- Teacher evaluations
- Determining which schools have all-day kindergarten
- Fees for sports participation, advanced placement and international baccalaureate tests, and parking
- Support by business partners, citing specifically Capital One and Junior Achievement
- Possible high school financial literacy program.

President Hossain expressed the Federation's gratitude for this update on our schools and presented Dr. Dale a Federation coffee cup.

Administrative Topics

The Bulletin (newsletter)

Newsletter articles are due to the editor by October 1. Committee chairs and Federation representatives to other organizations are urged to share information via *The Bulletin*.

Minutes

The membership approved the minutes of the June 17, 2010, membership meeting.

Approval of Operating Budget

Scott Schlegel presented the draft 2010-2011 operating budget. This draft budget had been reviewed by the board at its last meeting and Scott has since incorporated the few minor changes proposed by the board. The budget assumes that membership increases by five over the prior year and Citizen

of the Year Banquet paid attendance increases to 95 persons. Income is forecast to be \$10,818; expenses, \$9,747. The membership voted to adopt the operating budget.

Treasurer's Report—Scott Schlegel

Scott presented the treasurer's report for the period July 1 through September 15. One anomaly is that the sponsor's donation of \$3000 for the Spring 2010 Citizen of the Year Banquet was received during the Federation's fiscal year that began July 1, which makes current income larger than forecast. The membership voted to receive and file the treasurer's report.

Old Business

Internship Opportunity

The Federation seeks to develop an internship position to assist with the management and display of Federation information. The intent is for a permanent position that will be staffed by interns, serving one after another for short terms. Kosmo Tatalias is leading this initiative. Please send him your suggestions, including leads for candidates, to fedwebmaster2010@fairfaxfederation.org.

2011 Citizen of the Year (COY) Award—Chair, Jeff Parnes

Information about nominations for the COY 2011 award—including the application—is on the Federation web site. Think who should be nominated; start early.

New and Miscellaneous Business

General

Tania noted that the Federation exists to look out for the interests of the membership. Toward this end, members are invited to introduce new business on issues of significance to member organizations.

Calendar

Don Hinman proposed that the program for the April 2011 membership meeting be on homeowner association (HOA) governance issues. See the Association Services committee report below.

New Chair of the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC)

Former Federation President Jeff Parnes has been appointed chair of the county's Transportation Advisory Committee.

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services—Don Hinman

Proposed Meeting Topic on Homeowner Association (HOA) and Condo Association Governance Problems. The Association Services Committee (ASC) is proposing to the Federation board that the topic for a future Federation membership meeting be a discussion of governance issues of HOAs and Condominium Associations that could be similar to what Lee District is planning for their October 27, 2010, meeting (see Lee District report). Don Hinman, Association Services Committee chair, requests Federation member feedback on what specific issues and concerns people would like to see addressed in a future membership meeting. Please email Don your topic suggestions at: FedAssociationServicesChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org.

County May Develop GIS Database on Associations. County staff is considering the possibility of adding information about associations to the county's Geographic Information System (GIS). Databases on particular geographic features are called "layers" and the county currently has a "subdivision layer" which identifies the location of every residential subdivision. An "association layer" could be added which indicates which subdivisions have HOAs, condominium associations, or civic/citizens associations, and may include other characteristics. The Federation's Association Services Committee will serve as a resource to county staff if they decide to proceed.

Budget—Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall—both absent
Charlie Dane reported that the Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County School Board will hold a joint meeting on October 26 to compare budget forecasts.

Education—Leonard Bumbaca (absent), Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson (absent)
Ed said that he had no further budget comments beyond what was brought up during Dr. Dale's presentation. Charlie Dane reported that Leonard will review the education portion of the current Federation legislative package and make recommendations for its update.

Environment—Flint Webb—absent
The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is on the calendar for a presentation at a membership meeting this membership year. Flint is coordinating closer collaboration between the Federation and the Green Breakfast group.

Human Services—position vacant
The Federation seeks a candidate for this position.

Land Use—Fred Costello
Most of Fred's work has been as a member of the Reston development Task Force where he raised the issue of balance between residential and non-residential development. The Task Force formed a subcommittee to examine this issue. To aid in the balance analysis, a summer intern generated guideline development parameters for Reston based on the successful Ballston-Rosslyn development. The reluctance of developers to build residential units and the desire of developers to build more commercial units will exacerbate the imbalance forecast by GMU. Many road improvements will be needed to bring the additional workers to the new jobs.

Fred developed a model of traffic vs. imbalance to see the impact on infrastructure. He developed some spot solutions to traffic problems at the Herndon-Monroe station and at the Wiehle Avenue and Hunter Mill Road crossings of the Dulles Toll Road; however, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation is still studying the traffic issues associated with the planned Reston development.

Another of Fred's analyses, as presented to the Task Force, shows that current zoning along Reston's Dulles corridor allows as much commercial development as GMU forecast as needed, but not as much residential development.

Legislation—Frank Anderson—absent
Please submit revisions and additions to the Legislative

agenda to the Legislative Chair at fedlegislationchr2010@fairfaxfederation.org

Membership - Kahan Dhillon—absent, no report
Public Safety – G. Gail Parker—absent

The Federation seeks an interested person to serve as co-chair with Gail.

Resolutions—Bill Hanks—no report
Audit Committee—Bill Hanks

The Audit Committee—Bill, Charlie Dane, and Art Wells—reviewed the Federation's financial records on August 17, 2010, and found no irregularities. Audit Committee Chairman Bill Hanks then moved that the annual Audit Committee report be approved. The motion was seconded by Audit Committee Member Charles Dane and was carried unanimously.

Transportation - Jeff Parnes, Carey Campbell and Roger Hoskins —all absent

Jeff sent this report. The expected cost of phase two of Dulles Rail is over the earlier estimate. The Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority (MWAA) has posted the latest report on the web at http://www.dullesmetro.com/phase_2_updates/index.cfm. MWAA will accept comments up to 1 October. Jeff will query the Federation Transportation Committee and see if we have a committee position that we can recommend to the board next week. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact the chairs at FedTransportationChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org so that their views can be considered.

Website—Jeff Parnes — absent, no report

District Council Reports

Braddock: Art Wells

The topic of the Braddock District Council September 14 meeting was BRAC 2005 as it pertains to Fairfax County and Fort Belvoir. Supervisor Cook and five officials in various BRAC-related positions spoke and responded to questions. The speakers were:

- Col Mark Moffatt, Deputy Garrison Commander for Transformation and BRAC, Fort Belvoir
- Tom Fahrney, BRAC Coordinator, VDOT
- Mark Canale, BRAC Coordinator, Fairfax County
- Dominic Bonaiuto, Legislative Director, Congressman Connelly's Office
- Chris Gasbar, BRAC Coordinator, Congressman Moran's Office

It is clear that much has been accomplished with much remaining to be completed by September 15, 2011, the BRAC implementation deadline. The major concern expressed by many in attendance was whether sufficient infrastructure will be in place, especially at the Mark Center (near Seminary Road & Shirley Highway).

The Oak Hill History Day on October 16 was announced as was a call for volunteers to help clean up Oak Hill the Saturday prior.

Lee: Don Hinman

The September meeting of the Lee District Association of Civic Organizations (LDACO) is scheduled September 22 at the

Franconia Government Center, covering two topics.

Topic #1: What's Under Construction at Lee District Park?
Tim Scott of the Fairfax County Park Authority will brief LDACO on the handicapped -accessible family recreation area being built at Lee District Park.

Topic #2: Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety in Lee District. The speaker is Chris Wells, Pedestrian Program Manager for the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. LDACO wants to hear about particular pedestrian and bicycle danger spots in Lee District, and attendees will discuss what can be done to make things safer, especially for our kids; a nine-year-old cyclist was killed in August on Franconia Rd.

The October 27 LDACO meeting will focus on HOA and Condo Association governance issues. Speakers will include Michele Thompson of Fairfax County and Don Hinman, Chair of the Federation's Association Services Committee and Lee District representative to the Federation Board. Issues to be addressed at the meeting include non-payment of HOA/Condo assessments, road maintenance and snow removal costs, determining sufficient capital replacement reserves, lack of familiarity with new state regulations for HOAs, how to deal with non-compliance with covenants, and rules on the placement of fences, trash dumpsters, etc.

Mason: Keith Taggart

Mason District Council is attacking the problem of littering in their district.

Mount Vernon: Karen Pohorylo - absent, no report

Providence: Charles Hall - absent, no report

Springfield: Mike Thompson - absent, no report

Sully: Jeff Parnes - absent, no report

Dranesville: does not have a council

Hunter Mill: does not have a council

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled September 23, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., at Braddock Hall, Burke.

The next membership meeting is scheduled October 21, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at Braddock Hall, Burke.

*Minutes written and published by
Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary*

Redistricting Virginia

The Redistricting Subcommittee of the Virginia House Committee on Privileges and Elections seeks public comment on the redistricting process, criteria to be considered in preparing redistricting plans, and potential district changes to legislative and congressional districts. Public hearings will be held according to the following schedule:

Wed, Sept 8 at 7pm Natural Science Center, V A
Western Community College
(Roanoke)
Wed, Sept 22 at 7pm ... Roper Performing Arts
Center, Tidewater Community College
(Norfolk)
Tue, Oct 5 at 7pm Mason Hall, George Mason
University
Mon, Oct 18 at 7pm Regional Center for
Advanced Technology and Training,
Danville Community College
Mon, Dec 6 at 7pm University Hall, University
of Mary Washington (Stafford Cam-
pus)
Fri, Dec 17 at 10 am 9th Floor Appropriations
Room, General Assembly Building
(time approximate, after Governor's
remarks to the money committees)

The Subcommittee Members are The Honorable Mark Lo Cole, Chairman, the Honorable Robert B. Bell, the Honorable Rosalyn R. Dance, the Honorable Algie T. Howell, Jr, the Honorable S. Chris Jones, the Honorable Jackson H. Miller, the Honorable David B. Albo, and the Honorable Johnny S. Joannou. Questions may be directed to Jack Austin, Division of Legislative Services at (804) 786-3591 or:

FJAustin@DLS.Virginia.gov

Persons wishing to register in advance to speak at one of the September hearings may do so by contacting Scott Maddrea [SMaddrea@house.virginia.gov], House of Delegate Committee Operations at (804) 698-1540. Persons wishing to be notified of future meetings may also contact Scott Maddrea. More information is available on the Redistricting Virginia website at <http://dlsqis.state.va.us/Ref/NewsReleases/NewsRelease082310.pdf>

New on the Federation Web Site

<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/>

Legislation page

- 2011 Virginia General Assembly Calendar
- Federation's Proposed 2011 Legislative Program

Land Use page

- Research Findings on Affordable Housing and Their Application to Fairfax County

FCFCA Program Calendar 2010-2011					
Month	Membership Meetings		Board Meetings		Newsletter Deadline
	Date	Program	Date	Program	
2010					
Sep	16	Back to School Issues by Schools Superintendent Dr. Dale, @ Braddock Hall	23	Legislative Program @ Braddock Hall	1-Oct
Oct	21	Legislative Program @ Braddock Hall	28	@ South County Center, Alexandria	1-Nov
Nov	18	Transportation @ Braddock Hall		No meeting	22-Nov
Dec	16	Environment @ Sulley District Office	2 ^a		20-Dec
2011					
Jan	20	FC Public School Budget @ Braddock Hall	27		24-Jan
Feb	17	Land Use Planning	24		21-Feb
Mar	17 ^b	County Budget	24 ^b		21-Mar
Apr	14 ^c	HOA Governance	28		18-Apr
May	19	Report from Richmond; Election of Federation Officers	26		23-May
Jun	16	Picnic, State of Fairfax by Sharon Bulova, Board of Supervisors Chair; Installation of Officers	23		20-Jun
<p>a. Dec 2 Board Meeting has been set to avoid scheduling conflicts during the Christmas holiday week. It serves as the December and November meetings combined.</p> <p>b. Dates of the March meetings will be interchanged if necessary to enable members to vote on final Federation budget recommendations.</p> <p>c. April 14 membership meeting is the second Thursday in April due to FCPS spring break the third week.</p>					

News items:

Citizen of the Year

The Federation is accepting nominations for the Fairfax County Citizen of the Year (COY) award, which honors those citizens whose voluntary contributions of time and talent have resulted in major accomplishments that have enhanced the quality of life for citizens of Fairfax. The criteria and nomination form are at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/COY/COYApplication.html>.

Redistricting

On October 5, Federation President Tania Hossain testified before the Virginia House of Delegates Committee on Privileges and Elections --Redistricting Subcommittee. The redistricting will be based on the 2010 census. The Federation supports the Iowa Plan, which has a non-partisan, citizen group submit three plans from which the House can choose one or none. <http://dlsqis.state.va.us/Ref/NewsReleases/NewsRelease082310.pdf>

Fairfax County Budget

Oct 23 from 2 to 4 pm an overview of the budget will be presented, with a facilitated discussion with the Board of Supervisors, followed by citizen workgroups to further discuss the budget. The meeting is at Hayfield Secondary School cafeteria, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. A similar meeting was

held on Oct 5 at the Fairfax County Government Center. The input gathered from the public will be used as a key factor to help guide the development of criteria for making budget decisions. To participate, register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/fy2012-community-forum-registration.htm>. A Do-it-Yourself Budget Toolkit is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/. County residents can complete a short budget survey and submit comments at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/

Legislative Program

At the Federation Oct 21 meeting, all members will be voting, item by item, on the resolutions contained in the appendix of this bulletin. Those present will also have the opportunity to change the wording of the resolutions. These resolutions are sent to the members of the Virginia General Assembly.

Education

On Sat, Oct 16: at Robinson Secondary School, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, Ken Kay, a nationally known leader in bringing 21st century skills into education and preparing every child to succeed in the new global economy, will be the keynote speaker at a meeting open to all parents, teachers, principals, students, business leaders, civic leaders, PTA leaders, and college and university leaders to discuss how FCPS can better prepare our students for the future. See <http://www.fcps.edu/news/summit.htm> for further information.

**Draft 2011 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
PRIORITIES, POSITIONS, AND
PROPOSALS
OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

*Fairfax County Federation of
Citizens Associations
The Federation
(Established 1940)*

**The Fred M. Packard Center
4022 Hummer Road * Annandale, VA 22003
www.fairfaxfederation.org**

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2011 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES PRIORITIES

(In alphabetical order)

- 1. Conservation** – Open space land conservation
- 2. Education** – Funding of state and federal mandates for K-12 education
- 3. Energy** – Energy conservation, including renewable and distributive energy
- 4. Governance** – Reversal of the strict interpretation of the “Dillon Rule”; consistency and conformity in regional planning
- 5. Infrastructure** – Funding of critical local education and transportation infrastructure needs
- 6. Land Use** – Protection of local land use authority
- 7. Tax Structure** – Modernization of state and local tax structures
- 8. Taxation Authority** – Equal taxing authority for counties, cities and towns

1. CONSERVATION

OPEN SPACE LAND CONSERVATION: Support establishment of annual dedicated funding sufficient to establish and maintain open and recreational space up to 20% of the total County land area without jeopardizing funding education and transportation, to include acquisition of land and conservation easements to be used as open space, such as natural areas, watersheds, farmland, forests, parks, and historic sites. (amended from 2000)

Rationale: *Virginia is the only state on the East Coast without dedicated funding for acquisition of open space. In 2004-2006, Virginia budgeted \$2.5 million annually for natural resources and added another \$10 million in 2005. Governor Kaine announced in June 2006 that he would like Virginia to conserve 400,000 additional acres of Virginia land as open space. Open and recreational space in Fairfax County should be continually increased until the goal of 20%, taken from the Comprehensive Plan, is met.*

2. EDUCATION

a. FUNDING FOR K – 12 MANDATES: Support legislation requiring state funding to reflect realistic costs for meeting state mandates such as the Standards of Quality (SOQ), the Standards of Learning (SOL) and the Standards of Accreditation (SOA) as well as federal mandates such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Support research to determine the costs of meeting these mandates (continued from 2005; revised in 2010).

Rationale: *While it is understood that student performance does not necessarily correlate with school funding, the cost of meeting these mandates continues to increase each year. State funding between the 2010 and 2011 approved budgets has increased slightly, but an independent report has found that the Commonwealth of Virginia severely underfunds education.*

The General Assembly should increase such funding to reflect cost increases related to re-benchmarking of state standards.

Federal funding for IDEA is slightly less than one-half of the 40% promised when the mandate to educate all children with disabilities was legislated, and the funding for NCLB is significantly less than what is needed to raise the achievement of all students. However, about \$25 million in federal stimulus money was distributed directly to FCPS for special education in FY 2010. This funding will be continued for only one more year. The General Assembly should adopt resolution and strategies to encourage Congress to increase funding for IDEA and NCLB or provide more flexibility to states and school districts in meeting federal mandates. (revised 2010)

b. RELIEF FROM STATE MANDATES: Support General Assembly relief from existing unfunded mandates. (2009)

Rationale: Given the significant projected FCPS budget shortfall, relief from State mandates would help preserve some important programs.

3. ENERGY

a. ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION: Support legislation that will encourage energy conservation, the use of renewable and distributive energy generation, and the use of refurbished energy-conservation products which have a payback period of five years or less. (2008; revised 2010)

Rationale: Most energy conservation projects will pay for themselves in less than five years so providing consumer educational advice and low cost energy saving equipment such as CFL light bulbs will not only reduce our demand for fossil fuel generated electricity but also save money for Virginia residents. Similarly, encouraging distributive renewable generation will decrease the risk of power disruptions due to natural disasters or malicious activity. In some cases, such as solar water heating, previously installed systems are not functioning, whereas these can be refurbished and energy can be saved.

b. RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD: Support enactment of a Renewable Portfolio Standard requiring that an increased fraction be produced from cost-effective, renewable, emission-free sources. (2009; revised 2010)

Rationale: Establishing a Renewable Portfolio Standard will address climate change. Furthermore, renewable sources are clean and getting cheaper while conventional sources may be risky, subject to cost volatility, and finite.

c. PURCHASE OF ENERGY SAVING PRODUCTS: Support legislation to amend the Virginia Public Utilities Act to encourage the purchase and refurbishing of energy saving products by consumers by allowing and encouraging utility companies in Virginia to provide low rates for capital costs for effective purchases of energy saving equipment and to be repaid through utility bills. (2009, revised 2010)

Rationale: The initial capital costs for energy saving equipment make it difficult for home owners and businesses to make the changes that can decrease energy demand.

4. GOVERNANCE

a. DILLON RULE: Support modification of the “Dillon Rule” to grant local jurisdictions those governing powers not expressly reserved to the Commonwealth or the federal government. (continued; revised 2002)

Rationale: The Commonwealth of Virginia practices a strict interpretation of the decision of federal Judge John F. Dillon of Iowa more than a century ago whereby local governments have only those powers expressly granted by the state or “indispensable to the declared objects and purposes of the corporation” (locality). Considering the significant growth in population and local jurisdictions in Virginia over the past century, this parsimony in local governing powers prevents local elected officials from being able to enact local ordinances to manage their communities effectively and efficiently.

b. PLANNING: Support legislation to ensure consistency and conformity among local, sub regional, Washington metropolitan regional and state short- and long-range land use and transportation plans. (continued; revised 2009, 2010)

Rationale: State legislation would be necessary for Fairfax County to enter into any regional compact to coordinate land use, transportation, including the Greater Washington 2050 Compact. (continued; revised 2010)

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

a. STATE SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION:

1.) Virginia should increase its insignificant financial support for school construction, renovation and debt service and allow localities to approve alternative sources of funding such as impact fees in addition to land proffers or increases in sales tax after approval by the local governing body.

Rationale: Virginia ranks near the bottom of states in financial support for school capital improvements although mandated and incentive programs require additional space or renovations, i.e., special education, reduced class size, Limited English Speaking (LEP) services, alternative programs for disruptive students, and applications of instructional technology.

2.) Support legislation for the use of Virginia unallocated Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement Fund to be used for state school capital construction and renovation of elementary, secondary, and high schools with such funds to be distributed to local school districts on the basis of average daily membership. (2006)

Rationale: The Tobacco Master Settlement Fund is intended to reimburse the taxpayers for the past expenditures for medical treatment of tobacco-related illnesses. The reimbursement of expenditures for school construction would guarantee the return of the Fund to the local communities and aid the increased education programs to deter smoking by children.

b. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING: Support continuing legislative action at the federal, state, and local levels to obtain the necessary funding from a variety of sources, including appropriate public-private partnerships, to allow for implementation of currently adopted transportation plans, with rail and mass transit as the highest priority. Oppose legislation that approves privatized toll revenue (such as HOT lanes) as a funding alternative. (continued, revised 2006, 2007, 2010).

Rationale: The transportation funding shortfall in Northern Virginia in 1993 was \$5.6 billion. The TransAction 2030 report of 2006 by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) projects a cost of \$30 billion to meet the needs of the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) by 2030, additional recommended improvements would cost an additional \$16.6 billion, making the total cost \$46.6 billion in 2005 dollars. Broken down on an annual cost basis, the need is nearly \$2 billion annually. (2007)

The 2001 Alternative Transportation and Land Use Activity Strategies (ATLAS) Study suggests the following potential funding strategies for Northern Virginia: split-rate tax districts; tax increment financing; distance-based fees; regional funding authority; priority funding areas; congestion pricing; parking pricing; proffers; and community development authorities. The Metropolitan Washington Transportation Planning Board has recommended several potential sources: increased fuel tax; tolls on new highways; increased sales tax; 1.0% income tax; and a payroll tax.

The construction of HOT (High Occupancy Toll) Lanes was a last-resort measure to widen interstates in the absence of state funding. The revenue from tolls goes to the private companies (Fluor and Transurban) who can charge variable toll rates for a contract period of 80 years. This is both a raw deal and a transfer of part of Virginia's sovereignty.

c. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FORMULA: Support continuing state and local legislative actions to assure increased state transportation funds for Northern Virginia in general and to Fairfax County in particular. (continued; revised 2010)

Rationale: While the 2007 General Assembly enacted new revenue sources for transportation infrastructure, they fall far short of the actual funding needs to meet the goals of the Virginia Six-Year Program and the Northern Virginia TransAction 2030 program goals and projects. (revised 2010)

d. METRO FUNDING: Support an increase in the federal and state shares of funding for Metro capital and operating costs and a regional dedicated funding source for the Metro system capital, operations and maintenance programs. (continued from 2001; revised 2005)

Rationale: The state of Maryland pays the full cost of Maryland's share of the Metro system whereas Virginia pays only a small part of Northern Virginia's share. There is an additional two (2) percent gasoline tax in Northern Virginia, the proceeds of which are dedicated to Metro funding.

The 2007 Virginia General Assembly session approved the required \$50 million Virginia contribution – from NVTAF funds – to be matched with District of Columbia and Maryland funds in order to get \$150 million in federal funds annually over ten (10) years as part of the METRO funding reauthorization bill sponsored by then-Congressman Tom Davis. This provision was passed by Congress as part of the Amtrak Reauthorization Bill. The Washington area is the only major metropolitan region in the country without a dedicated funding source for its Metro system. Portions of the Washington Metro rail system are now more than 30 years old and badly in need of major maintenance. Also, the Red and Orange lines are at capacity during commuting hours. The \$1.5 billion Metro Matters capital program provides 185 new buses and 120 rail cars, but the 10-year program calls for 300 rail cars and 460 buses to serve the system adequately. (revised 2009)

6. LAND USE

LAND USE AUTHORITY: Oppose any diminution of local land use authority. (continued from 1999, revised 2010)

Rationale: Land use authority should remain with the local jurisdictions. At the same time, there should be regional consideration of land use plans and issues. This supports a Fairfax County legislative position.

7. TAX STRUCTURE

a. LOCAL AND STATE TAX POLICIES: Support comprehensive restructuring and modernization of the Commonwealth's state and local tax policies. (continued from 1999)

Rationale: Reform of the state-local tax system, a long standing Federation position and priority, is necessary to relieve heavy dependence on the real property tax. While studied by legislative committees for many years, no real solution has been forthcoming. The 2004 General Assembly increased the general sales tax by half a cent and reduced the sales tax on food but gave counties only an increase in one revenue source – the tax on cigarettes.

b. LOCAL SHARE OF STATE TAX REVENUES: Support the enactment of legislation to revise the state and local tax structure in Virginia to return a portion of state income tax revenue to local governments for their unrestricted use. (1999; revised 2001, 2002 and 2010)

Rationale: Until such time as the General Assembly revises the taxation structure in the Commonwealth to ensure fairness to local governments, one method for localities to receive general revenues through other than real and personal property taxes is through a share of the state income tax. (revised 2010)

c. LIMITATION: Strongly oppose state-imposed limits on local real property taxing authority. (2004)

Rationale: There has been much discussion during political campaigns about "capping" the annual increase in residential real estate taxes. With the increasing heavy dependency on real property tax revenue to

fund local government operations, such a limitation would have severe consequences in the provision of services by the County. Real property taxing authority should remain a purely local power because it is the only revenue source over which a county has sole authority.

8. TAXATION AUTHORITY

a. LOCAL TAXING AUTHORITY: Support state legislation to grant counties the same taxing authority as cities and towns but oppose requiring counties to assume responsibility for construction and maintenance of roads. (continued from 1998; revised 2004)

Rationale: *Currently cities and towns can increase sales and use tax on certain products and services without conducting a voter referendum, as must be done by counties before taking such action. This legislation would enable counties to increase taxes on transient occupancy (hotels and motels), food and beverage (restaurants), and admissions without referendum, thereby enabling them to reduce reliance on property taxes for revenue. The 2004 General Assembly increased the transient occupancy tax but dedicated a portion of the revenue to tourism and economic development (Visit Fairfax).*

b. ADDITIONAL LOCAL TAXES:

1.) Support revocation of the current state legislation authorizing a local income tax for transportation purposes only.

2.) Reduce general reliance on real and property tax as the primary local revenue base by authorizing local government bodies options by levy, (a) a piggy-back income tax, (b) a piggyback sales tax, (c) a piggy back gasoline tax. (1998, revised 2003, 2008, and 2009)

Rationale: *(1) Enacted in 1991, the legislation authorizing a local income tax for transportation purposes, through referendum, requires that the tax supplement, not supplant, current local investment in transportation projects. (2) Current reliance on real and personal property taxes to raise approximately three-fourths of each year's County revenue stream places an undue burden on property owners when alternative revenue sources used in other states could be made available. Piggy-back tax approaches provide tax revenues with a near-zero local government collection cost. Approximately 12% of new local sales and gasoline tax revenues generated would be paid by pass-through customers who now benefit from Fairfax County government funded services without paying for any share of those benefits.*

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

CITIZEN INTERESTS

a. LIVING WAGE: Support legislation to authorize Fairfax County to require County contractors to provide a living wage to employees. (2007)

Rationale: *Nearly nine (9) percent of Fairfax County households have incomes under \$25,000 per year. The high cost of living makes it particularly difficult for low-income workers to meet their basic needs. If state enabling legislation is required, the Federation applauds this effort.*

b. MINIMUM WAGE: Support a minimum wage indexed to the CPI increase. (revised 2007, 2008 and 2010)

Rationale: *The federal minimum wage is now \$7.25 an hour. That minimum wage is not adequate in Fairfax County. (revised 2010)*

c. EARLY VOTING: Support legislation to enable qualified voters to vote absentee in person without providing an excuse or reason for not being able to vote in person on Election Day while retaining all present

statutory specific reasons enabling a voter to cast an absentee ballot for those persons who vote absentee by mail. (2009)

Rationale: *Early voting would enhance voter participation. (revised 2010)*

d. RESTON TOWN STATUS: Recommend that a task force be convened within the current legislative session comprised of affected interests, including: General Assembly members, Fairfax County government, and key referendum stakeholders, and co-chaired by a representative of each of the following: Reston Citizens Association, the County of Fairfax, and the General Assembly, to address the mechanical issues of how the self governance of Reston should be implemented, identify and analyze the options, and make recommendations as to the governance of the proposed town of Reston. (2008, revised 2009)

Rationale: *The Code of Virginia (15.2-817) prohibits the establishment of any new towns within the boundaries of an urban county with more than 200 people per square mile. More than 3,600 Reston residents signed a petition asking the General Assembly to authorize a referendum on whether Reston should become incorporated as a town.*

e. CAR TITLE LOAN: Cap the predatory car title loan interest rate to a maximum of 36 % per year. (2010)

Rationale: *The car title loan is a predatory lending practice where the individual must pay back the loan with an interest rate of 25-30% per month, or 300-360% per year. Predatory lending has financially destroyed many thousands of individuals and families who too often lose their most valuable possession, their car. (2010)*

f. RESTORATION OF RIGHTS: Amend Virginia's Constitution to automatically restore civil rights, including voting rights for most or all felons once they have completed their sentences. (2010)

Rationale: *Virginia is one of two states that do not automatically restore the civil rights of felons once they have completed their sentences. Individuals with felony convictions are permanently barred from voting, even after fully completing their sentences under Virginia's Constitution. Although voting rights may be restored only by an act of the Governor, this act takes a very long time and contributes to the disenfranchisement of a significant number of the population. Although the process has recently been simplified and accelerated, it still leaves restoration up to a secret, arbitrary decision of the Governor. All other states, except for Virginia and Kentucky, automatically restore voting rights for most or all felons once they have completed their sentences. Approximately 300,000 Virginia citizens cannot vote due to a felony conviction, even though most have fully paid their debt to society and are now productive members of their communities. (2010)*

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS AND SERVICES

a. ASSOCIATION OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES: Strongly oppose legislation that imposes unreasonable limitations on volunteer officers, directors or trustees of homeowners associations or that imposes obligations other than those in an association's governing documents. (continued from 2001; revised 2010)

b. DELAYED PAYMENT TO ASSOCIATIONS FOR DELIVERY OF RESALE DISCLOSURE PACKET: Support amending a recent law (House Bill 516) affecting Common Interest Communities (HOAs and Condominium Associations) to eliminate the new mandate that payment to Associations (for providing a resale disclosure packet to a home buyer) be delayed until settlement. We support restoration of the previous statutory provision that payment be made prior to delivery of the packet. (continued from 2009; revised 2010)

Rationale: *H.B. 516, passed in the 2008 General Assembly session, amended section 55-509.6 (Fees for disclosure packet) of the Virginia Property Owners Act and section 55-79.97 (Fees for resale certificate) of the Virginia Condominium Act. The law now requires that the fee be collected out of settlement proceeds. If settlement does not occur within 90 days, the cost of the resale packet cost is assessed against the lot. This mandate to delay payment will cause financial harm. Common Interest Community (CIC) Associations should be allowed to collect fees at the time of packet delivery. If payment is delayed until settlement, the Association may wait for months before being paid, or they may never be paid. First, not all those who receive packets will ultimately purchase; potential buyers may back out. Second, Associations all over the state have a number of homes in foreclosure. In many such cases the Associations will likely never collect the delinquent assessments from the sellers, and will therefore also not be able to collect the disclosure packet fees. There are good features of H.B. 516 but this delayed payment provision is harmful.*

EDUCATION

a. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH/GANG PREVENTION: Support continuing coordination of resources and activities among local, state, and federal agencies and with local nonprofit and community organizations aimed at prevention of gang violence and in support of comprehensive after-school programs, other prevention measures and academic enrichment programs. (2005; revised 2008)

Rationale: *Two of the strongest predictors of adolescent substance abuse and other behavioral disorders are academic difficulties and unsupervised time after school. Although gang activity predominantly occurs in the community, it spills into the schools and constitutes safety threats to students and staff.*

b. COLLEGE CREDIT INITIATIVE: Support legislation that will encourage and help fund partnerships between school divisions and higher education to allow high school students to earn college credit and facilitate their pursuit of technical training for industry certifications. (2005)

Rationale: *Growth of the Governor's Commonwealth College Course Collaborative and FCPS partnerships with Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and George Mason University (GMU) will require state and/or federal funding to minimize the financial burdens on students and families of such enriched high school opportunities.*

c. EARLY EDUCATION: Support additional state and federal investments in pre-kindergarten education and child care programs, which will improve school readiness and reduce the costs of remedial education and social services, especially for children from low-income families, without creating an additional unfunded mandate. (2006)

Rationale: *Thirty years of research have demonstrated that every dollar invested in early education for children from low-income families produces \$7 in cost avoidance for remedial and LEP instruction, and health and social services. Additional funding would provide training for pre-school programs and daycare providers so that more education and fewer maintenance activities are provided in daycare settings.*

d. HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING: Support efforts to provide adequate and equitable funding for all state institutions for higher education. Fund NVCC and GMU at a level equivalent to that for other state institutions. In addition, the state should develop and fund a higher education.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to support growth projected through 2010.

The state should fund a new Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) adjustment for GMU faculty and staff. (revised 2002; 2005 and 2006)

Rationale: *Access to higher education is essential for economic development, preparing a skilled work force, and the continuing education needed for global competition in an information society. GMU and NVCC impact significantly the economic, educational, and cultural vitality of Northern Virginia, but should be funded*

at a level equivalent to similar state institutions. GMU is funded at a level less than for other doctoral-degree granting, research institutions in Virginia and there have been significant increases in the number of students at NVCC in school year for 2009-10. Lack of adequate funding has caused increased costs of tuition and fees, an economic burden on families. Additional facilities are badly needed to accommodate a greatly increased number of students within the coming decade. GMU is having a difficult time recruiting and retaining staff, and a COLA adjustment appears the most equitable method of continuing to improve their position. Virginia's institutions must increase college participation by all segments of the population to maintain our current standard of living and to compete globally. We ask that, to the extent possible, higher education be held harmless in any further budget cuts. Virginia lags behind Maryland, Kentucky, and North Carolina in its higher education appropriation per capita (the figures are \$245 for Virginia versus \$280, \$316, and \$413, for the other states, respectively). If additional cuts to higher education must be made, the cuts should not be made across the board, given the disproportionate impact on rapidly growing institutions such as GMU, which is the fastest-growing four-year institution in Virginia. GMU also produces more master's degree graduates than any other in the Commonwealth. Northern Virginia has sectors of the economy that thrive because it has college graduate workers. More than 70 percent of GMU graduates live and work in this region. (revised 2010)

e. PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR:

- 1.) Support new legislation permitting local school boards to set the opening day of school in accordance with the consensus of the local community. (2005, revised 2010)
- 2.) Alternatively, revise current law to include the following important reasons for opening school prior to Labor Day: "additional effective instruction to students prior to assessments of academic achievement, the provision of appropriate summer remediation programs for students, and increased professional development opportunities for staff." (2006; revised 2010)

Rationale: *The Code of Virginia mandates that schools open after Labor Day although over half of the school divisions received waivers to open as much as three weeks earlier and as a result FCPS students have less classroom time before the State requires SOL exams. Repeal of the "King's Dominion" law would allow setting the school calendar to allow additional instruction prior to assessments of academic achievement, extended-year calendar options, and provision of stronger summer programs for student remediation and professional development. (revised 2009)*

f. REFORM OF STATE AND FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS: Target access to public school choice and supplemental services to individuals within subgroups that fail to achieve NCLB benchmarks. (2006; 2009; revised 2010)

Rationale: *Although SOL test scores have risen as a result of curriculum alignment, familiarity with the tests, and intensive remediation efforts, there is evidence that students and schools in poor and minority communities are more likely to fail to graduate and their schools to lose accreditation and federal funding. Such results will punish these students, schools and communities without eliminating the causes of failure and will doom the standards movement, which has the potential to strengthen education at every level. In addition, the requirements of NCLB for meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) have created situations where schools that meet Virginia's high standard are subject to federal sanctions, such as loss of funding, because of unreasonable requirements such as standardization testing of students who understand little English or children with severe disabilities. (revised 2009)*

g. MODIFICATION OF CALCULATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS: Support modifying achievement calculations for subgroups such that students who are members of multiple subgroups do not have a disproportionate impact on accountability results. (2008)

Rationale: Many FCPS students are multi-ethnic, and NCLB determines pass or failing schools based on 26 categories, many of them ethnic categories.

h. SALARY COMPETING FACTOR: Support FCPS position on supporting use of a cost of competing factor in the SOQ reimbursement formulas in recognition of the higher salaries paid by school boards in identified locations in order to attract and retain skilled teachers and other personnel within its competitive local regional wage market. (2008)

Rationale: According to FCPS, the State differential covers approximately 740 categories and includes all agencies with State classified employees in Northern Virginia. The instructional rate was last increased in 1996 based on 1995 JLARC report, and the non-instructional rate was last increased in 2004 to reach the rate recommendation made in 1995.

i. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION: Support common sense reauthorization and funding of federal accountability programs including No Child Left Behind. (2009)

Rationale: Common sense revision will “ensure fair, accurate, and meaningful assessments of student achievement as well as “making certain that any interventions appropriately address the academic needs of a school” [from FCPS Legislative Program]. Currently, as a sanction for failing to meet NCLB targets, all students within a “failing” school are provided access to additional school choices. In many cases, this includes large numbers of students who are achieving at or above benchmarks. Allowing such students the choice of leaving the underperforming school will result in a lower average score for the remaining students.

ENVIRONMENT

a. CHESAPEAKE BAY PRESERVATION ACT:

1.) Oppose any legislation that weakens the Act and call for the Clean Water Act to explicitly give the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the authority to regulate non-point-source pollution. (continued; revised 2010)

2.) **WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:** Support increased funding for the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF), preferably with a dedicated source of revenue to ensure continued funding. (2007)

Rationale: In 1997 the Virginia General Assembly passed the Water Quality Improvement Act that established the WQIF. The fund provided grants for the purpose of reducing the amount of nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay. Both non-point sources such as agriculture operations and point source discharges such as wastewater treatment facilities are eligible for grants from the WQIF. The Virginia 2006-2008 budget provided \$100 million per year for WQIF but the estimated need for this program through 2025 is \$2.3 billion for upgrade of sewage treatment plants and other programs.

b. ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR COMPOUNDS, PHARMACEUTICALS, AND HORMONE

WATER POLLUTION: Urge research and ensuing legislation that would mitigate endocrine disrupter pollution in Virginia waters. (2008)

Rationale: Endocrine disruptor compounds (EDCs) inhibit the regulation of biological processes related to growth, development and reproduction that have impacts on marine life and human health. This is a complex, highly technical, and very important issue that needs immediate attention through research and development of remedies. Pollution from pharmaceuticals is also a problem and may be partially responsible for multi-antibiotic resistant infections.

c. PETROLEUM TANK FARMS: Support the City of Fairfax and the County of Fairfax in the phased relocation of the Pickett Road Tank Farm so as to minimize exposure to hazards in residential neighborhoods.

Also support legislative initiatives, such as allowing a maximum number of tanker truck trips to and from tank farms located in or near densely populated areas; providing state and local authority for additional safety requirements for bulk petroleum storage; increased state authority to regulate intrastate pipeline safety; and strengthening, codification, and enabling state and/or local agencies' enforcement power of nuisance laws. (continued; revised 2008, 2009, 2010)

Rationale: *Governor Wilder appointed a Governor's Advisory Commission on the Pickett Road Tank Farm following discovery in September 1990 of a massive oil spill of an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 gallons of hydrocarbons from the Texaco facility at the tank farm. Among the recommendations in the Commission's report of December 18, 1992 was relocation of the tank farm to a more appropriate location. The tank farm is located in a completely developed area with 400 tanker trucks a day going to and from the facility. Oil spill incidents and the addition of ethanol trucking have brought renewed urgency to this issue of safety and environmental degradation. The increased use of ethanol in gasoline mixtures requires truck transport of ethanol to the tank farm. (revised 2009)*

d. SOLID WASTE: Support federal legislation that would allow states and localities to place restrictions on interstate transfer of solid waste, including medical and nuclear waste. (continued)

e. STREAM AND GROUNDWATER PROTECTION: Support state legislation to require pollution prevention measures, erosion and sedimentation controls, and storm water management facilities in state projects and programs. (continued)

f. UNDERGROUND UTILITIES: Support legislation to encourage utility companies to install lines underground and to convert aerial lines to underground facilities. (revised 2007)

Rationale: *This would reduce the number of power and other utility outages created by storms causing overhead utility lines to break and would improve the appearance of our communities. Also, life cycle cost analyses may show that underground facilities are more cost efficient than aerial facilities.*

g. UTILITY EASEMENTS: Support legislation that would require new or replaced utility lines (subsurface and aerial) to be located in commonly shared easements and to be balanced in consideration of both aesthetic and economic impacts, with siting approved in consultation with local officials. (continued from 1999)

HUMAN SERVICES

a. ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS: Support adequate state funding for essential human services programs that offer protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation and that assist people in achieving and maintaining independence and self-sufficiency. (2005)

Rationale: *Federal or state statutes mandate many of these programs while other, non mandated programs provide assistance for residents who lack the resources to help themselves. (revised 2009)*

b. LIBRARIES: Support removal of the population cap on state aid to libraries. (2006)

Rationale: *According to state Code, the formula for state aid to public libraries is based on population, square miles served, and local effort. The current formula allocates \$0.30 per resident up to the first 600,000 residents and \$0.10 per resident above that population. Only Fairfax County suffers from this criterion.*

LAND USE

a. ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES ORDINANCE: Support legislation to enable Fairfax County to adopt an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to ensure an orderly and coordinated land development and

support infrastructure program, including transportation and schools. Oppose any effort to add language obligating local governments to provide such facilities within a restrictive time frame set by the General Assembly. (continued)

b. ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS: Support legislation to enable Fairfax County to consider architectural standards as part of development proposals. (continued from 2001)

Rationale: Counties are authorized to have Architectural Review Boards for consideration of architectural features in historic districts only.

c. BRAC IMPACTS: Support state funding to assist with the costs of providing the infrastructure, including rail, to accommodate the several thousand new employees who will be assigned to Fort Belvoir and nearby areas plus those employees who will be moved there from other Northern Virginia locations. (continued; revised 2008)

Rationale: Most of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) funding in the current state biennial budget was provided to Virginia Beach to prevent closure of the Oceana Naval Base. With minimal funding by the federal government, Northern Virginia must look to the state government for financial assistance.

d. PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS: Support the existing legal process that reviews protection of private property rights on a “case by case” basis. (continued)

e. PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS: Support a state Revolving Fund for the acquisition of historic properties, environmentally significant areas and natural open spaces and the application of protective easements prior to their resale. (continued from 2000)

Rationale: This would enable and ensure protection of these valuable properties without requiring them to be owned and maintained by the public sector over the long term.

f. MAINTAIN PRESENT PROFFER PROVISIONS: Oppose any change in the present proffer authority granted to the County. (2009)

Rationale: During the 2008 session of the General Assembly, a bill was introduced to prohibit cash proffers and authorize limited impact fees instead. The proposed impact fees were at a level that would have resulted in far less value to Fairfax County than the value of proffer packages that rezoning applicants have been willing to negotiate in the past. This bill was not adopted, but could be reintroduced in the 2010 session.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

a. HOUSE OF DELEGATES SUBCOMMITTEES: Support legislation that would require all committees and subcommittees to hold recorded votes on any bill before the House of Delegates. (2007; 2009; revised 2010)

Rationale: The practice of public votes on bills should be made part of the Laws of Virginia.

b. LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING: Support Virginia’s legislative redistricting by a nonpartisan group subject to approval by the legislature, on the Iowa model. (2007; revised 2010)

Rationale: The legislative redistricting process should be fair and ensure competitive districts. (2010)

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL ISSUES

REGIONAL PLANNING: Support legislation to strengthen regional planning and cooperation through Regional Commissions by amending Virginia Code 15.2, Chapter 42, to delete the exclusion of planning districts which have multi-state councils of government. (continued from 1998)

PUBLIC SAFETY

a. ASSAULT WEAPONS: Enable local jurisdictions to regulate the sale of assault weapons. (continued; revised 2006)

b. DANGEROUS WEAPONS: Enable Fairfax County to regulate possession of dangerous weapons in public parks and County-owned or leased facilities or properties. (continued from 2000; revised 2006)

c. FIREARMS: Support increased penalties for illegal gun sales and for gun sales to minors. Also, support background checks for all gun sales, including private sales at gun shows. (continued; 2004; revised 2010)

TAXATION AND FINANCE

a. BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE (BPOL) TAX: Ensure that any state or local legislation that might eliminate exemptions to the BPOL tax does not remove the current exemptions for non-profit organizations. (continued from 1998)

b. COURT-RELATED SALARIES: Support increased state funding of salaries for magistrates, District court employees, probation officers and public defenders. (2006)

***Rationale:** There are local higher-than-normal turnover rates in magistrate (23%) and probation officer (20%) positions. Some attorneys will no longer serve as public defenders because of very low pay rates. Localities can supplement magistrate and probation staff compensation. In fiscal year 2006, Fairfax County did fund a 25% supplement to magistrates even though compensation is a state obligation.*

c. JAIL OPERATIONS: Support full state reimbursement to localities for the actual cost of confinement of State inmates in local jails. (2006)

***Rationale:** The current state reimbursement, established nearly 20 years ago, is \$8 per day and rises to \$14 per day on the 61st day after a court-ordered conviction (when state law requires state prisoners to be transferred to state facilities). The actual cost of housing, feeding and other services for inmates is \$125 per day.*

d. PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX: Support action by the General Assembly to repeal the personal property tax cap on reimbursement to localities of \$950 million per annum. (2005)

***Rationale:** The General Assembly tax charges in 2004 included the cap on personal property tax reimbursement to localities at \$950 million, which will have an impact on local revenues because of inflation. The Commonwealth must act to ensure that localities have a revenue source to replace this loss.*

e. FEDERAL AND STATE MANDATES: Support full funding by the federal and state governments of all federal and state mandates, respectively, on local government. (continued from 1999; revised 2007)

f. TWO-YEAR BUDGETING: Support allowing local governments and school divisions to adopt biennial (two-year) instead of annual operating budgets. (2005)

***Rationale:** A biennial budget process for localities and school divisions would mirror the state's two-year budget, afford a longer time frame for financial planning, allow more time for program review and evaluation, and could be less expensive and time consuming than annual budgeting.*

g. SOLAR ENERGY TAX CREDITS: Support a State solar tax credit for residences and businesses. (2009)

Rationale: This action reinstates and expands a former solar tax credit. It would encourage increased use of solar energy, a renewable resource, and reduce the use of carbon-based fuels.

TELECOMMUNICATION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES: Ensure that any legislation protects the zoning powers of local government, ensures the public's right to be heard on proposed facilities regardless of whether the land is publicly or privately owned, protects the environment and communities, and restricts VDOT's ability to allow construction of telecommunications facilities without prior approval of the affected locality's land use and/or zoning authority. (continued)

TRANSPORTATION

a. SAFETEA-LU AND CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS (CAAA): Support implementation strategies to assure efficient and cost effective compliance with all mandated SAFETEA-LU (2005) and CAA requirements; assure adoption of all necessary actions to prevent potential loss of federal transportation funds, including support for Air Quality/Congestion Management Plans developed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), i.e., the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. (continued)

b. STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS: Support legislation to direct VDOT to require vehicles in a jurisdiction with the Urban County Executive form of government to stop for pedestrians at marked crosswalks at unsignalized intersections on roads with speed with limits of less than 35 miles per hour. (2008)

Rationale: The lack of a law requiring vehicles to stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks is very unsafe. For example, Arlington, which builds, maintains and oversees its roadway network, has such a requirement. All urban areas need this requirement.

c. TRUCK SAFETY: Support increased enforcement of truck safety laws, including inspections. (continued from 1999; revised 2005)

d. HIGH SPEED RAIL: Support a study to evaluate high speed rail along major transportation rights of ways. (2009)

Rationale: Rail corridors would provide construction jobs, increase revenue, reduce air pollution, reduce delays on roads and at airports.

e. FEES FOR OVERWEIGHT TRUCKS: Support legislation that establishes changes to existing fees for overload and overweight truck that will more closely reflect the pavement and bridge damage costs caused by these vehicles. (2010)

Rationale: In 2008 the Virginia General Assembly directed the Virginia Department of Transportation to review the existing fee structure for permits granted to overweight vehicles on Virginia's highway to determine what fees should be associated with highway damage and added maintenance costs caused by such vehicles. The review, which was carried out by the Virginia Transportation Research Council, found that monetary damages and additional maintenance costs caused by overweight trucks are significantly higher than the fees paid by those vehicles, many of which receive permits for overweight loads without any fee pay-

ment whatsoever. Unfortunately VDOT has drafted legislation that recommends fee changes that do not reflect full costs of damage and added maintenance costs. A fee structure that establishes appropriate user charges for overweight trucks would allow the Commonwealth to generate sufficient revenue to more fully recover the costs that the Commonwealth incurs to mitigate the damage and added maintenance costs caused by overweight trucks.

***Pending approval by the Federation Membership on
Thursday, October 21, 2010.***

**More information and updates on the
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations'
2011 Legislative Program is available on the following website:
www.fairfaxfederation.org/legislation1.htm.**