

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE COLONIAL COURTHOUSE AT 6504 MAIN STREET, GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA ON A MOTION MADE BY _____, AND SECONDED BY _____, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Phillip N. Bazzani, ___;
Ashley C. Chriscoe, ___;
Kenneth W. Gibson, ___;
Christopher A. Hutson, ___;
Michael A. Nicosia, ___;
Robert J. Orth, ___;
Kevin M. Smith, ___;

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE COUNTY'S 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WHEREAS, because of the applicability of Dillon's Rule in Virginia, Gloucester County is dependent upon the General Assembly to adopt specific enabling legislation in many instances in order to enable the County to provide efficient and effective services and government to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the County has developed a Legislative Agenda for the consideration of the 2025 session of the General Assembly which outlines certain legislative policies which the Board believes ought to guide the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Board has obtained input from several sources and after careful consideration, believes its legislative agenda is in the best interests of the citizens of Gloucester County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors that this Board hereby approves the County's 2025 Legislative Agenda incorporated herein and attached hereto and commends it to the County's representatives in the General Assembly for action.

A Copy Teste:

Carol E. Steele, County Administrator



County of Gloucester
Board of Supervisors
6489 Main Street
Gloucester, Virginia 23061
(804) 693-4042

Gloucester County Legislative Agenda – 2025 General Assembly

Legislative Requests for Action

- 1. Fund build-out of Machicomoco & Middle Peninsula State Park**
- 2. Implement Transient Occupancy Tax Collection in State Parks**
- 3. Exclude drinking water impoundments from definition of impervious land area**
- 4. Increase funding of Planning District Commissions**
- 5. Fund capital improvements at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science**

Legislative Priority Positions

- 1. State Funding for Public Education**
- 2. Local Authority Granted to Counties**
- 3. Funding for Broadband**
- 4. Actions to Optimize Paying off the Debt on the Coleman Bridge**
- 5. Transportation Funding**
- 6. Use of Automated License Plate Reading Cameras within the VDOT right of way**
- 7. Flood Preparedness**
- 8. Funding for the Removal of Abandoned Derelict and Sunken Boats**
- 9. Funding for the Victims Services Grant**
- 10. Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**
- 11. Funding for Dredging**
- 12. First Responder Recruitment, Retention, Training, and Support**

Legislative Requests

1. Fund build-out of Machicomoco & Middle Peninsula State Park

Gloucester supports full funding for the development of Machicomoco State Park, including the Main and West Units, to provide active and passive recreation opportunities, river access for park visitors, additional lodging opportunities and facilities to accommodate hosting a variety of programs and events for park visitors.

2. Implement Transient Occupancy Tax Collection in State Parks

Gloucester County supports legislation that would extend the application of local lodging taxes to state parks where camping/lodging activities occur. The tax is charged at private facilities and the minimal increase will not impact the use of state parks. A portion of the tax must be spent solely for tourism and travel, marketing of tourism initiatives or related activities. These funds will help localities, especially those with limited tourism budgets, to market tourist attractions including the State parks.

3. Exclude drinking water impoundments from definition of impervious land areas

Gloucester County asks that the General Assembly review the DEQ - VRRM spreadsheet methodology to exclude monitored drinking water impoundments from the “wet pond” impervious land cover type. With the approval of COV Section 62.1-44.15:27.2 for water quantity tiered approach, rural coastal localities are unable to fully benefit from its implementation, as engineering design/construction costs for projects in many HUCs remain high due to the inclusion of such drinking water impoundments being classified as impervious.

4. Increase funding of Planning District Commissions

Gloucester County appreciates the additional funding the General Assembly provided to Planning District Commissions in FY25 and asks that the balance of the request be provided in FY26 (\$125,000 per PDC).

5. Fund capital improvements at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Gloucester County supports continued funding of improvements at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science including completion of the Marine Operations Administration Complex that was partially funded in FY25.

Legislative Priority Positions

1. State Funding for Public Education

Gloucester County supports full state funding for public education, including the Standards of Quality (SOQ) as recommended by the Board of Education and the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC). As long as these recommendations coincide with prevailing local practice, targeted incentive programs, capital, and maintenance support, and teacher salaries. Full state funding should be achieved without reduction to other parts of state public education budgets or to other core services.

Gloucester supports full restoration of budget cuts, including the elimination of the funding cap on support positions, and full reinstatement of the Cost of Competing Adjustment “COCA” for support staff.

Gloucester urges the General Assembly to approve and fund strategies addressing the teacher shortage in the Commonwealth and funding for school construction costs.

2. Local Authority Granted to Counties

Gloucester County supports relaxation of the Dillon Rule by enhancing local authority and autonomy in matters including land use, revenue measures, procurement, and other issues of local concern. Gloucester County supports extending powers currently granted to some local governments to all local governments. Gloucester County opposes legislation that erodes local authority.

Specific concerns:

- Gloucester County opposes any legislation that limits or restricts local authority to regulate home-based businesses, including short-term rentals regardless of whether services or goods are purchased through an online hosting platform
- Gloucester County supports responsiveness by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to localities' individual needs rather than determination of needs by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). Gloucester County supports the expansion of authority and discretion of Resident Administrators of VDOT to approve modifications to design standards where appropriate with local needs, including reduction of speed limits.

3. Funding for Broadband

Gloucester County supports the Commonwealth providing financial supplements to broadband providers to ensure universal affordable internet access in Virginia. The County also supports projects being expedited through efficient grant programs and financial incentives to providers so that broadband access can be achieved as quickly as possible.

4. Actions to Optimize Paying off the Debt on the Coleman Bridge

Gloucester County recognizes the final payment on the original bond for widening the Coleman Bridge was made in June 2021 leaving only the toll operations and repayment of Toll Facility Revolving Fund (TFRF) to be paid for with toll proceeds. The County further acknowledges that with a balance of approximately \$33M owed, the latest estimate for paying off the TFRF is 2033.

As the Virginia Department of Transportation reviews the need to replace toll collection equipment, Gloucester County requests that a financial analysis be conducted to determine efficiencies and savings of operational costs with the new equipment. Further, Gloucester County maintains its standing request for a seat at the table when matters concerning the Coleman Bridge are contemplated, as Gloucester County residents pay the highest percentage of all toll revenues.

5. Transportation Funding

Gloucester County supports additional state funding to address the secondary road needs of counties throughout the Commonwealth, including additional funding for the paving of unpaved roads. Gloucester County supports changes to simplify the Smart Scale process for allocating transportation funds to reduce time and costs to prepare and review applications.

Gloucester County also supports legislation and policy initiatives that would require VDOT to both address ditches, outfalls, and flooding of roads, and plan ahead for sea level rise/land subsidence.

6. Use of Automated License Plate Reading Cameras within VDOT right of way

Gloucester County supports the use of VDOT right of way for placement of license plate reading cameras to help with crime investigation and crime reduction. Use of public right of way will allow for additional and strategic camera placement.

7. Flood Preparedness

Gloucester County supports continued funding and resources that assist localities in preventing and reducing the impacts of flooding. Gloucester County supports greater flexibility in these programs and funding sources that will maximize their benefits and best suit local and regional needs.

8. Continue Funding for the Removal of Abandoned Derelict and Sunken Boats

Gloucester County supports the continued state funding for the removal of derelict and sunken boats. Working with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) grant program is the most viable way the County has to respond to the problem.

9. Funding for the Victims Services Grant

Gloucester County supports full funding of the Victim Services Grant and that the General Assembly supplement federal funds to keep the program whole and able to meet needed services of victims of crime.

10. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Gloucester supports expansion of state and federal funding to provide for the availability and installation of interoperable, electric vehicle charging stations in collaboration with localities to US Highways.

11. Funding for Dredging

The County opposes the US Coast Guard's abandonment of channels and removal of Aids to Navigation and supports continued funding of dredging projects that maintain the economic viability of our coastal waterways.

12. First Responder Recruitment, Retention, Training, and Support

Gloucester County urges the General Assembly to provide additional resources that would assist local governments with the recruitment, retention, training, and support of first responders such as law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel, and 9-1-1 dispatchers.