

WEST PIEDMONT

REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 2023

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) is a regional planning organization serving the counties of Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania; the cities of Danville and Martinsville; and the Town of Rocky Mount.



PATRICK COUNTY
VIRGINIA



REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

FUNDING, REVENUE & TAXATION

The WPPDC urges the Commonwealth to continue providing creative and flexible financial support and accommodations as necessary to address unprecedented new challenges for local economies and to help restore and strengthen them.

The WPPDC opposes any legislation intended to restrict or limit local government taxing authority including the Business/ Professional /Occupational License (BPOL) Tax.

The WPPDC supports the elimination of state exemptions limiting the amount of local machinery and tool taxes which may be collected on solar power farm equipment and facilities.

The WPPDC supports the creation of a sustainable approach to address funding and delivery of services for children and youth under the Children's Services Act (CSA) to stem ever burgeoning local government costs.

HOUSING

WPPDC supports maintaining and expanding federal and state funding and appropriate incentives to foster affordable housing development, including workforce housing.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

The WPPDC supports increased state funding for the Commonwealth's 21 planning districts to further their vital mission to promote collaborative approaches to issues which are regional in scope.

EDUCATION

The WPPDC supports the state fully funding the Standards of Quality recommended by the State Board of Education and the Standards of Accreditation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WPPDC supports federal and state funding for infrastructure and industrial site improvements to enhance the tiered ranking of industrial sites in the region.

Additionally, the WPPDC encourages the General Assembly to develop new economic development incentives to compete with neighboring states. Localities within the WPPDC's service area are routinely and distinctly disadvantaged by North Carolina's larger, more aggressive incentive packages.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The WPPDC supports federal/state funding and program initiatives to address the opioid crisis by targeting prevention, treatment, recovery, and workforce re-entry support programs.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDING

The WPPDC advocates for continued funding of school resource officers in Virginia public school systems as a vital public safety measure to protect students, faculty, and staff.

The WPPDC advocates state funding support for local law enforcement personnel at a level adequate to enable localities to retain experienced personnel in a market including competition from both the Virginia state police and North Carolina law enforcement agencies.

Finally, the WPPDC supports Governor Youngkin's Operation Bold Blue Line to reduce violent crimes throughout our communities, as well as the implementation of Attorney General Miyares' Operation Ceasefire. The WPPDC looks forward to seeing these programs funded and implemented in the Cities of Martinsville and Danville.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

The WPPDC supports expanding electronic meetings outside declared emergency periods with flexibility for localities and regional organizations to determine how to include public participation and public comment.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

The WPPDC encourages funding for developing and implementing a master plan for the Mayo River State Park. The Commonwealth purchased land in Henry and Patrick counties more than a decade ago for a new state park.

TRANSPORTATION

The WPPDC supports sustainable state funding for Smart Scale and other state programs necessary to support critical long term transportation investments to facilitate economic prosperity in the West Piedmont Region. Additionally, the WPPDC encourages an increase in funding for rural counties.

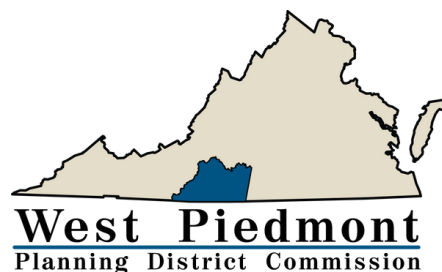
The WPPDC supports the creation of a new inland port in Southern Virginia to facilitate the timely transport of goods from the region's business community and the attendant economic development impact such a facility would create in the region.

BROADBAND

WPPDC urges the Commonwealth and the federal government to assist communities in efforts to deploy universal affordable access to the internet in underserved areas.

WPPDC advocates continued state support of local and regional authorities created under the Virginia Wireless Service Authorities Act, Virginia Resources Authority, and other favorable financing mechanisms for broadband projects. Assistance should include economic incentives, along with budgetary and statutory policies facilitating broadband deployment and adoption.

The WPPDC opposes mandates restricting local land use authority over the siting of telecommunications infrastructure.



Contact Information
Michael R. Armbrister, Executive Director
West Piedmont Planning District Commission
P.O. Box 5268, Martinsville, VA 24115
Phone: 276.638.3987, Email: marmbrister@wppdc.org

OUR LOCALITIES AT A GLANCE

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Area: 690.5 square miles
Population: 54,477
County Seat: Rocky Mount
FY23 Operating Budget: \$182.5 million
Real Estate Tax Rate: \$0.61 per \$100 of assessed value

HENRY COUNTY

Area: 382.3 square miles
Population: 50,948
County Seat: Martinsville
FY23 Operating Budget: \$189.9 million
Real Estate Tax Rate: \$0.55 per \$100 of assessed value

PATRICK COUNTY

Area: 483.0 square miles
Population: 17,608
County Seat: Stuart
FY23 Operating Budget: \$67.2 million
Real Estate Tax Rate: \$0.73 per \$100 of assessed value

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Area: 969.0 square miles
Population: 60,501
County Seat: Chatham
FY23 Operating Budget: \$218 million
Real Estate Tax Rate: \$0.62 per \$100 of assessed value

CITY OF DANVILLE

Area: 42.80 square miles
Population: 42,590
FY23 Operating Budget: \$280.3 million
Real Estate Tax Rate: \$0.84 per \$100 of assessed value

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE

Area: 10.96 square miles
Population: 13,485
FY23 Operating Budget: \$108.7 million
Real Estate Tax Rate: \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value

TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT

Area: 6.849 square miles
Population: 4,903
FY23 Operating Budget: \$10.4 million
Real Estate Tax Rate: \$0.13 per \$100 of assessed value

LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING THE WPPDC

SENATE OF VIRGINIA



FRANK M. RUFF, JR.

15th District
District Phone: 434-374-5129
GAB Phone: 804-698-7515
district15@senate.virginia.gov



WILLIAM M. "BILL" STANLEY

20th District
District Phone: 540-721-6028
GAB Phone: 804-698-7520
district20@senate.virginia.gov



DAVID R. SUETTERLEIN

19th District
District Phone: 540-302-8486
GAB Phone: 804-698-7519
district19@senate.virginia.gov

HOUSE OF DELEGATES



KATHY J. BYRON

22nd District
District Phone: 434-582-1592
GAB Phone: 804-698-1022
DelKByron@house.virginia.gov



DANNY MARSHALL, III

14th District
District Phone: 434-797-5861
GAB Phone: 804-698-1014
DelDMarshall@house.virginia.gov



LES R. ADAMS

16th District
District Phone: 434-432-1600
GAB Phone: 804-698-1016
DelLAdams@house.virginia.gov



WREN WILLIAMS

9th District
District Phone: 276-693-9024 x
1011
GAB Phone: 804-698-1009
DelWWilliams@house.virginia.gov

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOURCES

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Listing of General Assembly members, livestream of session and committee meetings, information on the State Capitol, etc.

Website: <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM (LIS)

Find bill information, standing committees, meeting schedule, and legislative archive from 1994 to present.

Website: <https://lis.virginia.gov/>

VIRGINIA REGULATORY TOWN HALL

A source of information about proposed change to Virginia's regulations, including a meetings calendar and board minutes. This site also facilitates public participation through online comment forums and an email notification service.

Website: <https://www.townhall.virginia.gov/>

STATE BUDGET

An archive of the state budget from 1996 to present. Includes the proposed budget, budget amendments, and committee reports.

Website: <https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/>

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

Commonwealth of Virginia Homepage: <https://www.virginia.gov/>

Directory of State Agencies: <https://www.virginia.gov/agencies/>

Virginia Association of Counties: <https://www.vaco.org/>

Virginia Municipal League: <https://www.vml.org/>

United States Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/>

United States House of Representatives: <https://www.house.gov/>

Congressional Legislation: <https://www.congress.gov/>

WHAT IS THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES PROGRAM?

The West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) aims to represent the interests and positions of the localities they serve through the Legislative Services Program. Annually, the WPPDC will draft legislative priorities with input from each locality and approval from the Board of Commissioners.

The legislative program is a tool for meeting and communicating with state and federal-level representatives. On the state-level, much of the communication occurs during the annual legislative session (January - March); however, the "off-season" is a prime time to have more in-depth discussions with legislators and help them plan and develop legislation or budget amendments to address the needs and concerns of the locality.

The WPPDC Legislative Services team will relay important information to the WPPDC board, staff, and localities throughout the year as well as seek feedback on issues that may be of concern or interest.

CONTACT

If you have a legislative concern that needs addressed at the state or federal levels, the WPPDC Legislative Services team can help you develop an action plan and connect you with legislators and their staff.

Olivia Garrett
Regional Programs Specialist
ogarrett@wppdc.org
864-230-3336 (cell)