

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FAUQUIER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' 2009 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS PROPOSED AND POSSIBLE STATE BUDGET CUTS

WHEREAS, the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors wishes to amend its 2009 Legislative Priorities to address the potential imposition of additional revenue cuts from the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the amended priorities contain the following additions:

STATE FUNDING FOR SHARED/LOCALLY ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS

Prior to enacting changes that lessen the tax impact for the Commonwealth while forcing localities to shoulder a greater burden, the Commonwealth must consider the fiscal impact on local governments.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ACT

State budget problems have negatively impacted the shared-funding relationship between the state and localities under the Comprehensive Services Act. State match rates were changed in 2008 and now provide different reimbursement levels depending of the type of service. The change favors community-based services over residential but the definition of community-based services is so narrow as to punish small localities who must work regionally to access these specialized services. The County requests that the definition of community-based services be broadened to recognize regional programs in areas where single-jurisdiction programs are financially impractical due to scale.

TRANSPORTATION

The County requests that the Commonwealth address the annual shortfall of maintenance funding. Until this situation is rectified, the capital funding for secondary roads and urban streets will be negatively impacted.

EDUCATION FUNDING

The County seeks help in addressing the escalating cost of school construction over the past 20 years and identification of strategies to effectively control costs while meeting the educational demands of the 21st Century. The County supports fair share funding for public education by the Commonwealth that at least includes:

1. The full funding of the Standards of Quality.
2. Recognition by the Commonwealth that the current policy of not acknowledging localities that employ land use value taxation in the calculation of the Composite Index (versus the current practice of using full assessed value) is inconsistent with its land preservation goals and policies;
3. Establishment of an appeals process for local governments to challenge the computation of their composite index;
4. Full funding for the literary loan fund;

5. Continued and expanded state funding to assist localities with school related capital costs including construction, renovation, and major capital purchases.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

The County strongly urges the General Assembly to continue to require that the enactment of any new mandate or the expansion of any existing mandate must include a fiscal impact analysis. Additionally, appropriations by the Commonwealth based on that analysis which fully cover the cost associated with the fulfillment of that mandate and that the level of government required to carry out the mandate be involved in the development of the implementation process. Specific examples include:

1. Full funding of the State's share of the true cost of the Standards of Quality.
2. Teacher salary mandates.
3. State and federal environmental priorities.
4. State and federal mandates under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
5. Salary and fringe benefits funding for constitutional officers and their staff.

IDENTIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ADDITIONAL REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

The County strongly urges the Governor and the General Assembly to consider the imposition of any and all possible revenue-generating measures for the Commonwealth in order to avoid the further shifting of deficits onto the shoulders of localities. Examples include an increase in the cigarette tax and/or gasoline tax.

ENHANCED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

Should these other recommended measures not be sufficient to cover revenue shortfalls and prevent the shifting of the burden from the Commonwealth to local governments, the County strongly supports measures to enhance local government taxing authority.

UTILIZATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S "RAINY DAY FUND"

In light of the unprecedented economic downturn now facing the Commonwealth, the County strongly urges the Commonwealth to consider utilization of the State's "Rainy Day Fund" rather than continuing to shift of the fiscal burden to localities.

; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors this 8th day of January 2008, That the Board's 2009 Legislative Priorities be, and are hereby, amended.

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*Paul S. McCulla
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors*