Deletions denoted in Red
Additions denoted in Blue

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2016

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia hereby supports legislation that may be introduced in the 2016 General Assembly session that ends the transfer of state funding shortfalls to localities and the continued shift of services traditionally provided by the state to local government.

The Board further supports legislation that strengthens localities' ability to fund and deliver services to our citizens including:

- ***Ending Unfunded Mandates on Local Government*** by reducing state mandates in proportion to state revenue reductions. Also, shifting the delivery of state services such as transportation should end. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECONDARY ROADS SHOULD NOT BE SHIFTED TO LOCALITIES.**

- ***Ending Future State Funding Reductions*** in the two areas where the state has served as a partner with local government: public education and public safety.

- ***Protect Local Governments' Taxing Authority for Current Revenue Sources***. Each General Assembly Session, bills are introduced to eliminate, restrict, or weaken, local governments' ability to levy taxes on its existing revenue sources. Montgomery County asks that our current revenue sources be protected.

- ***Strengthening the Diversity of Local Revenues by Sharing Income Taxes or Other Revenue Sources in Support of Local Services*** by distributing a percentage of individual income tax revenues, providing the authority to levy a local income tax, or allowing other sources to generate revenue locally for locally delivered services.

- ***Strengthening the County's Revenue Base by Enacting Equal Taxing Authority*** by eliminating the distinction in the taxing authority of Virginia's cities and counties.

- ***Recognizing the State's Role in Funding Quality Education*** by fully funding the state Standards of Quality (SOQ), basing teacher pay raises on actual positions, not just SOQ.

- ~~***Reassessment Amend Section 58.1-3330 of the Code of Virginia relating to notice of change in assessment for real property as specified in SB 678.*** Montgomery County supports Senator Watkins pre-filed bill (SB 678) which clarifies that the notice of change in assessment shall include the last two years final assessments and final tax rates and not the preceding last two assessments. For localities that conduct four and six year reassessments the last two assessments could have been in the last two years or up to four and eight years ago which makes it confusing.~~

- ***Amend Section 58.1-3331 of the Code of Virginia relating to the mandate that owners with less than four residential units shall be given a 45 day notice prior to hearing their appeal of the assessment before the Board of Equalization.*** Montgomery County supports language amending this section to remove the forty five day notice mandate and replace it with a minimum notice period of fifteen days with the option for the landowner to request additional time if needed. The current language creates a scheduling problem for four and six year assessment localities and does not give the landowner the option to have their hearing heard earlier than 45 days.

- ***Providing State Funding for 100% of the Costs of Optical Scan Voting Machines, 100% of the Costs of Electronic Pollbooks and 100% of the Operating Costs of the Electoral Board/General Registrar.***

- ~~***Sustain State aid to Library System*** **through the "New Age, New Library" plan to meet the needs of 21st century library users in Virginia.**~~

- ***Strengthen State Funding for public libraries to improve childhood literacy and invigorate STEM focused instruction in Schools. Support the Library of Virginia to strengthen its financial foundation.***

- ***Mandatory Water and Sewer Connections*** Montgomery County requests legislation adding Montgomery County to the list of counties who can require mandatory water and sewer connections pursuant to the authority contained in Section 15.2-2110 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended.

- ***Eliminate Split Voting Precincts in Montgomery County*** Montgomery County requests that technical adjustments be made to the boundaries of House Districts 7, 8, and 12 in Montgomery County in order to eliminate split voting precincts in Montgomery County

- ***Ensuring 100% of Administrative Funds for the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)*** and increasing state matching share for all CSA costs.

- ~~***Processing and Marketing of Industrial Hemp*** Montgomery County supports efforts by all levels of government to allow cultivation, processing and marketing of industrial hemp.~~

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library
One stop, unlimited possibilities

August 25, 2015

Bill Brown, Chair
Montgomery County Board Of Supervisors
755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2E
Christiansburg, VA 24073-3181

Dear Mr. Brown and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

At the monthly meeting of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board of Trustees, held on August 19, 2015 at the Meadowbrook Library in Shawsville, the Library Board voiced their strong support for the legislative agenda of the Virginia Library Association (VLA). The Library Board would like to respectfully request the agenda be included in the legislative agenda for Montgomery County, recognizing that strong public libraries across the Commonwealth are vital to Virginia's continued success.

The Virginia Library Association is proposing an additional $2.5 million dollars for state aid for public libraries in each year of the next biennium. (Agenda item #1.) Most public libraries use state aid dollars for their book budgets so VLA is stating that an increase in state aid will be used to augment e-Book collections, particularly in the STEM area.

VLA is also requesting that the General Assembly do more to strengthen the financial foundation of the Library of Virginia, which has been devastated by nearly 8 years of budget cuts. (Agenda item #2.)

The Library Board appreciates your support for the agenda items and your work for the County all year long. If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paula Alston, Director

Attachments: VLA Agenda

Cc: Craig Meadows, County Administrator
Mary Biggs, Board member

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library
Paula K. Alston, Director
125 Sheltman Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(540) 382-6969 / Fax (540) 382-6964
www.mfrl.org

Virginia Library Association
Legislative Program Goals
2015-2016

1. *Strengthen State funding for public libraries to improve childhood literacy and invigorate STEM-focused instruction in schools.*

VLA proposes that the Commonwealth strengthen State funding for public library materials and programs that target childhood literacy and STEM instruction before and during school-age years, using traditional library materials as well as contemporary digital library materials including ebooks, audiobooks, streaming media, and electronic databases.

FY2017	**$2.5 million**
FY2018	**$2.5 million**

Recent studies document significant improvement in childhood literacy that result from summer reading programs and strong access to print and digital materials provided by public libraries. Data from Virginia public libraries also show strong demand for and use of print and digital materials that extend STEM learning outside the classroom and support STEM-focused curriculums. This funding will help Virginia's public libraries provide the 21st century library materials needed by school programs focused on foundational literacy and STEM education throughout Virginia.

This funding also would represent a modest step forward in restoring the viability and vitality of the State Aid program, which the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) found in 2001 to be an effective investment that leverages local spending and achieves cost efficiencies and economies of scale. State Aid to Public Libraries has been deeply cut over the past 15 years, declining by over $5 million in constant dollars to a level last seen in FY 1999. State Aid now falls nearly $12 million short of the calculated funding level set forth in section 42.1-48 of the Code of Virginia.

2. *Support the Library of Virginia.*

VLA supports the Library of Virginia's legislative and budgetary priorities and proposes that the General Assembly continue the work begun in fiscal 2013 to strengthen its financial foundation.

Approved by VLA Executive Committee June 11, 2015
Approved by VLA Council June 12, 2015