R-FY-17-
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
FOR 2017

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia hereby supports legislation that may be introduced in the 2017 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.

- ***Power to Levy Tax upon the Sale or Use of Cigarettes.*** Montgomery requests legislation adding Montgomery County to the list of counties who can levy tax upon the sale or use of cigarettes. The revenues generated from the tax imposed shall be used solely for school maintenance and construction.

- ***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.

- ***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***

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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.***~~

- ***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.

- ***Support removing the certification language in the 2016-2018 Biennium Budget in regards to salary increases for constitutional officers and other state-supported local employees in order to preserve flexibility for Localities in providing compensation increases for constitutional officers and state-supported local employees.***

- ***Support salary increase for State Court employees in the Montgomery County General District Court and Montgomery County Juvenile Domestic Relations Court.***

- ***Clarify that Constitutional Officers and Regional Jail Authorities may obtain liability coverage from providers other than the Division Risk Management (DRM) without being obligated to pay premiums to DRM.***

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