

October 28, 2019

Fairfax County Delegation to the 2020 Virginia General Assembly
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Dear Fairfax Delegation Member and Board Supervisor,

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations forwards to you its 2020 Legislative Issues for your consideration and action. We will assist you on any Issue.

Each Issue pertains to a Commonwealth-wide or County-specific issue and is well-researched by a Federation Committee. Please note that the second line of each Issue directs that Issue to either the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors, or both.

All issues are based on results of the sixth annual Federation Survey of Fairfax County residents and on objectives of the Federation Membership. This survey was open to all County residents and had responses from all Magisterial Districts and 42 of the 44 Zip codes.

The Federation Membership represents community associations and households throughout Fairfax County and this Legislative Issues package is approved by the Federation Board and Membership.

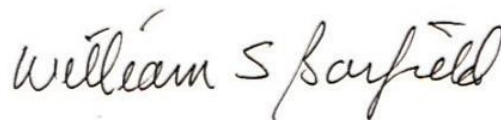
The Federation's Board of Directors and Membership appreciate you representing our Fairfax communities. We know you understand our concerns about these issues and will give them your qualified attention while communicating their status back to the Federation.

Queries regarding a specific Issue may be directed to the respective preparer listed on the bottom of each Issue page or to the Legislative Committee at FedLegislationChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org.

Respectively submitted,



Tim Thompson
Legislative Committee Co-Chair
Past President



William S. Barfield
Legislative Committee Co-Chair
President

Enclosures:

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2020 Legislative Issues

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2020 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 20A01 Short-Term Lodging Ordinance Support
Issue for: <u> X </u> Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly <u> </u> Fairfax Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019
Issue: The General Assembly should oppose any bill that restricts the authority of local governments to regulate short-term rentals (short term lodging, STL), as long as such regulation is consistent with state law governing STL operations. The Federation supports local regulation. A short-term lodging ordinance went into effect in Fairfax County on October 1, 2018. It includes a requirement that the county undertake a comprehensive review of the ordinance after 18 months, with multiple public comment sessions. If legislators believe that the Fairfax ordinance is too restrictive, we urge them to make the case for amending the ordinance (through a zoning amendment) to both their constituents and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS).
Background: The Federation supports the right of owners to rent out their homes, but comprehensive, local regulation is needed to address the negative impacts on local communities and neighborhoods. Through multiple trips to Richmond, the Federation worked hard in 2017 for the passage of SB 1578, which granted local governments the right to regulate rentals, and was gratified when it became law. The Fairfax County BOS used its land-use authority to enact a STL ordinance, effective October 2018. In the 2018 session, the Federation opposed SB 1701, which would have prohibited Fairfax County (and only Fairfax County) from limiting the number of rental days per year to anything less than 180; the current county limit is 60 days. That bill passed the Senate but was defeated in a House subcommittee.
Existing Conditions/Impacts: The county ordinance allows owners to rent out part or the entirety of their primary residence while establishing rules to balance the competing desires of residents with opposing views. Unregulated short-term rentals can destabilize neighborhoods. In addition, rentals in non-primary residences reduce the available housing stock for full-time residents. Shortages of affordable and available housing negatively impact a locale’s ability to attract higher-paying employers and the ability to maintain appropriate infrastructure, services and resources. There are several active legal cases on short-term rentals, some of which could come before the Virginia Supreme Court.
Preferred Position: Oppose any General Assembly bill that restricts the authority of local governments to utilize land-use zoning laws to regulate STLs. The Fairfax County BOS included the requirement of an 18-month review of the October 2018 regulation. Such review, to be presented in the 2 nd or 3 rd quarter of 2020, will include public input to county staff and elected officials, as well as staff analysis. Those wanting to influence county policy should express their concerns during that evaluation period and urge the BOS to amend the ordinance. Any state legislation not including the right of local government authority over STLs should be strenuously resisted. In addition, as long as there are active legal cases, the General Assembly should not pursue short-term rental legislation.
Benefits: Lodging owners who register and follow current county rules can continue to profit from sharing their home. Neighborhoods will greatly benefit from the reduction of the negative effects of unregulated rentals, including parking, noise from group events, overcrowding and security concerns, as has been documented. Limiting rentals to a primary residence will assist in addressing the increasing deficit of our county’s residential housing availability and affordability.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): (1) Community association leaders and neighborhood residents concerned about the proliferation of unregulated STLs and the negative impacts on the stability of neighborhoods and access to affordable housing; (2) STL operators who are concerned about the extent to which STL operators who do not adhere to good business practices have harmed their collective reputation.
Lead Federation Committee: Citizen Association Services (CAS)
Prepared by: Don Hinman & Sue Kovach Shuman, CAS co-chairs, FedAssociationServicesChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org

2020 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 20C02 Management of Deicing & Anti-icing Salts
This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019
Issue: Salt (sodium chloride, NaCl) and other chlorides are used for both pre-treatment before winter storms and for de-icing on roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks. Levels of service for salt application are variable by jurisdiction and private owners. In many cases, commercial property operators simply rely on “hearing the crunch” of rock salt as a standard for adequate treatment, without regard to the environmental impact. Salt treatment runs off into our streams, preventing healthy aquatic life, and ultimately it leads to unacceptable levels of chloride in water supplies.
Background: The Commonwealth needs to identify and enforce best management practices (BMPs) for salt treatment in order to prevent further erosion of local water quality. Stormwater runoff is the fastest growing source of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and local streams. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has identified chloride associated with winter deicing/anti-icing activities as one of four stressors contributing to the impaired Accotink water quality. Already Fairfax Water has had to warn people with high blood pressure to be careful about drinking tap water due to high sodium levels.
Existing Conditions/Impacts: The Virginia Department of Environment is developing a Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) for northern Virginia driven by the Accotink Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study. Based on specific conductivity studies, the Accotink chloride loading exceeds “Acute criteria” (860 mg/L) in multiple winter storm events each year. While the Accotink does not flow into a reservoir for drinking water, the impact of salt treatment on reservoirs is widespread. For example, during technical training at the Griffith Water Treatment Plant, the SaMS Stakeholders Action Committee learned that Occoquon Reservoir already exceeds warning thresholds on increasing frequency, and that no filtration system is in place to prevent further contamination of treated water, to the detriment of vulnerable customers. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is not committing to SaMS which would reduce roadway salts.
Preferred Position: The Legislature should direct VDOT and other agencies to adopt best management practices throughout the Commonwealth. Fairfax County should facilitate training sessions to train de-icing salt applicators: 1) on the risks of excess salt application, 2) how to pick alternative de-icing alternatives depending on weather conditions, and 3) how to apply deicing substances appropriately.
Benefits: Better water quality, cost reductions.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the Commonwealth, public drinking water treatment facilities, American Water Works Association, Trout Unlimited and other fishing advocacy groups, Sierra Club, Friends of Accotink Creek and other environmental groups.
Lead Federation Committee: Environment
Prepared by & Federation email: Flint Webb, FedEnvironmentChr2020@FairfaxFederation.org .

2020 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 20C03 Climate Change Impact on Stormwater Infrastructure
This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019
Issue: Storm Intensity Duration Frequencies (IDF) are likely to increase due to climate change. The design of new infrastructure projects that are expected to last for decades should take into consideration climate change.
Background: IDF curves provide an estimate of the rainfall intensity (in inches for a single storm event) over various expected repeat periods. For instance the current IDF curve indicates that the peak rainfall over a 1-hour period every year to be 1.21 inches (the peak 1-hour, 1-year storm). But in July 2019 we had a rainstorm that dumped over 3 inches in 50 minutes. Climate change models indicate that we should expect more intense storms in the future – regardless of how fast we decrease out greenhouse gas emissions.
Existing Conditions/Impacts: IDF curves are issued by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) prepares IDF curves by looking at the historic weather data. With the climate changing, backward looking IDF curves are obsolete as soon as they are prepared. But these curves are used to design: the size of culverts under roadways, the size and shape that streams should have to minimize soil erosion, dams, the height of bridges, and thousands of other construction projects that are designed to last for decades. NOAA and the Federal Emergency Planning Agency (FEMA) recognizes that the current approach to develop IDF curves is inadequate to account for climate change, but can't keep up with the changing climate.
Preferred Position: The State needs to develop IDF curves for infrastructure construction that reflects how climate change is expected to affect storm intensities and different expected infrastructure life expectancies. The County needs to incorporate IDF curves that account for climate change impacts into the Public Facilities Manual (PFM).
Benefits: By planning for increased storm intensities when we build new projects we will not need to replace the infrastructure as often and there will be less flooding.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Friends of Accotink Creek, the Sierra Club, 350 Fairfax, and other environmental groups.
Lead Federation Committee: Environment
Prepared by: Flint Webb, Chairman, FedEnvironmentChr2020@FairfaxFederation.org .

2020 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 20E01 Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FRM)
This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019
Issue: Providing educational funding from the Commonwealth to help defray the higher costs associated with educating students who receive Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FRM).
Background: Students who receive FRM are among those who are most at risk of educational failure. Low-income students often require additional instruction and remediation, and their lack of at-home resources and support place them at a well-documented disadvantage when they enter the classroom. Data show that these disadvantages grow into an achievement gap which has proven difficult to narrow, let alone close. Meeting these children’s needs requires schools to spend extra time, attention, and other resources above and beyond what is needed for children who do not receive FRM. (ref 19E02, 18E02, 17E02)
Existing Conditions/Impacts: Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) serve a diverse student population, in which approximately 55,000 children (or about 28% of the total student population) are eligible for FRM. This percentage has grown significantly since the most recent recession, while overall state funding levels for K-12 education have declined in real terms. Title I federal funds (for children in poverty) make up little of the difference between children’s needs and the funding required to meet those needs.
Preferred Position: The Federation should support legislation to create educational funding that addresses the higher needs of FRM students. Per-student funding can help provide these children with the resources they need to be successful, and would help similarly situated children throughout the Commonwealth.
Benefits: Targeting educational funding for students who receive FRM will help address the achievement gap that has long existed among students whose demographic characteristics vary. In addition, by basing funding on a per-student basis, we direct these funds to at-risk children in all communities.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Educational organizations and county governments, particularly in areas with large percentages of FRM-eligible students.
Lead Federation Committee: Education
Prepared by: Nancy Trainer and Ed Saperstein, Co-chairs, FedEducationChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org

2020 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 20E02 City-County Revenue Equalization
This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019
Issue: Equalizing the revenue-generating authority of counties with that of cities.
Background: The distinction between the taxing authority of Virginia’s cities and counties has been a source of contention for many years. Many believe the distinction has lost any rational basis. Fairfax County serves over one million citizens, and yet is tightly constrained in its ability to address the fiscal needs of its community, whereas municipalities serving a fraction of that number enjoy much greater flexibility. During its 2017 session, the Virginia Senate offered a resolution to study local government fiscal stress, and directed the study to review “the disparity between city and county tax authority.” The Joint Subcommittee on Local Government Fiscal Stress has not yet published that report. In the 2019 session, members of both the Senate and the House introduced bills to equalize the taxing authorities of cities and counties. (ref 19E01, 18E01, 17E01, 16E03)
Existing Conditions/Impacts: Virginia caps the amount that counties (but not cities) can apply to lodging, cigarettes, admissions, and meals, and requires that meals taxes in counties (but not cities) be subject to approval by referendum. This produces stark differences between adjacent jurisdictions. For example, while Fairfax County has been authorized by the Commonwealth to charge a county tobacco tax up to the state amount of \$0.30 per package of cigarettes, the city of Alexandria charges \$1.26 per package, the city of Fairfax charges \$0.85 per package, and the city of Falls Church charges \$0.85 per package. Counties have become increasingly reliant on real estate taxes for their revenues.
Preferred Position: The Federation should support legislative efforts to equalize the revenue-generating authority of counties with that of cities.
Benefits: Counties increasingly experience the same kinds of pressures as cities, such as higher poverty levels and drug use, and the costly solutions require a more flexible revenue-generating approach. Equalizing the tax treatment of counties and cities would permit a much-needed diversification of revenue streams in county budgets, and would better allow counties to match their communities’ needs with appropriate resources.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Educational organizations and county governments, and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo).
Lead Federation Committee: Education
Prepared by: Nancy Trainer and Ed Saperstein, Co-chairs FedEducationChr2020 @ fairfaxfederation.org

2020 Legislative Issues

<u>Issue ID:</u> 20G01 Comprehensive Redistricting Commission
<u>Issue for:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Board of Supervisors
<u>Date Approved by Federation:</u> 24 October 2019
<u>Issue:</u> The current redistricting process of legislative boundaries is biased and unfair. The Virginia Redistricting Commission should be authorized to perform the duties as written in the 2019 General Assembly legislation (Sickles - HB 2760 Redistricting).
<u>Background:</u> Gerrymandered districts are noted by their torturous & obscure shapes. The United States Supreme Court has ordered Virginia to redraw four Congressional districts because the existing districts are unconstitutional as they don't adhere to the accepted standards of compactness, contiguity, and balanced citizen representation. The Virginia Senate ranks tenth in the Nation for the most torturous and obscure boundaries shape factor. The 2019 Federation Survey showed 76% of Fairfax residents support a comprehensive redistricting effort via a non-bipartisan, unbiased Redistricting Commission. The Survey showed only 7% of County residents oppose the creation of an independent & unbiased redistricting commission.
<u>Existing Conditions/Impacts:</u> Gerrymandering is deliberate manipulation of legislative boundaries for political power. Election outcomes are affected because gerrymandering: (1) Reduces electoral competition; (2) Reduces voter turnout; (3) Determines outcomes in the party primary elections/conventions; (4) Increases incumbent advantage; and (5) Increases election costs due to broader area canvassing and media buys.
<u>Preferred Position:</u> Support the establishment of the non-partisan, independent and unbiased redistricting commission for all local, state and Federal electoral districts of the Commonwealth.
<u>Benefits:</u> A Redistricting Commission would provide more comprehensible districts and fair representation.
<u>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):</u> . CITIZEN VOTERS, The League of Women Voters, OneVirginia2021, NetworkNoVA
<u>Lead Federation Committee:</u> Legislation
<u>Prepared by:</u> Tim Thompson and Bill Barfield, Co-Chairs, FedLegislationChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org

2020 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 20H01 Fund Evaluation Study of Cannabis Laws in Other States
This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019
Issue: Fund a study to evaluate cannabis laws that have been implemented in other states to determine their implications for Virginia as well as to evaluate the impact of the recently passed medical cannabis laws in Virginia.
Background: As of July, 2019, 33 states and DC have legalized medical cannabis, and 11 states and DC have decriminalized recreational cannabis. This year, for the first time, a question was included in the Fairfax Federation legislative survey asking respondents about their position on cannabis. About 35% of respondents supported decriminalization of cannabis use for medical and recreational purposes. About 42% supported medical use only. Virginia has recently passed laws that allow medical use of cannabis.
Existing Conditions/Impacts: Laws related to decriminalization of cannabis have been implemented in a number of states. An assessment of the consequences of these laws on public health, public safety, and economic impact might help guide the direction of possible future legislation in Virginia. The assessment should also focus on the impact of expungement of records of those who had been convicted as well as the effect of decriminalization on potential tax revenues.
Preferred Position: The Commonwealth should study the benefits and risks of decriminalization and legalization of cannabis.
Benefits: Further research and study of this issue will permit our Legislature to make informed decisions regarding cannabis.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): NORML, State Police, Virginia Department of Health
Lead Federation Committee: Human Services
Prepared by: Mike Perel, Chair, and Morgan Jameson, FedHumanServicesChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org

2020 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 20H02 - Intergenerational Home Sharing for Housing of University Students
This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019
Issue: Support is needed for an Intergenerational Student Housing Initiative at State Universities. Legislation should be initiated to develop and implement a program that matches university students looking for housing with older homeowners looking for companionship, rent money, and a little help around the house.
Background: Intergenerational home sharing is not a new concept. For example, in the Boston area, an organization called Nesterly successfully operates an intergenerational home sharing service connecting university students with older adults with homes to share. With the proper interviewing, background checks, references, personal compatibility checks, and other organizational support, successful home sharing could be achieved here as well. Where there is support, it can achieve three important goals: (1) Help students afford housing; (2) Help older adults age in place; and (3) Help universities address the on-campus student housing shortage.
Existing Conditions/Impacts: Some universities, like George Mason, are expanding their student enrollment without providing adequate housing for students on campus. As a result, private companies are stepping in to build student housing that may or may not be compatible with nearby residential housing. Campus housing and private student housing can be expensive for many students. Some number of university students are homeless due to insufficient income, lack of affordable housing, or family conflict. There are many older residents in Virginia who would like to remain in their homes but find it costly to live here and maintain their homes. As the percent of older adults in the population is predicted to increase, this need will increase proportionally. An effective intergenerational home sharing program would help address both needs: affordable student housing and older adults aging in place.
Preferred Position: Legislation to initiate and fund a pilot program at George Mason University to help match students looking for lower cost off campus housing with older residents wanting to share their home in return for below market rent and help with some chores. If the pilot program is successful, support similar initiatives at other Virginia State Universities.
Benefits: According to the National Shared Housing Resource Center, "Home Sharing is a simple idea: A homeowner offers accommodation to a home sharer in exchange for an agreed level of support in the form of financial exchange, assistance with household tasks, or both . . . for these people, shared housing offers companionship, affordable housing, security, mutual support and much more." If this concept were more fully promoted in Virginia, it would help Universities with insufficient campus student housing, help students find affordable housing, and assist older home owners looking to stay in their homes.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Area Agencies on Aging; University housing administrators; affordable housing advocates
Lead Federation Committee: Human Services
Prepared by & Federation email: Michael Perel, FedHumanServicesChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org

2020 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 20P01 Reduce Hand-Held Devices Usage While Driving
Issue for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019
Issue: Distracted drivers are increasingly a documented often-lethal threat to themselves, vehicle occupants, other motorized vehicles and their occupants, cyclists, pedestrians, and road-workers. In fact, DISTRACTION is now the primary cause of motor vehicle accidents in the US. While many factors contribute to distractions, it's important to reduce driving's cognitive and physical tasks/burdens when possible. Therefore, to increase safety for citizens and property of the Commonwealth, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations requests a Legislative Action to REQUIRE vehicle operators to use Hands-Free devices and PROHIBIT them from using personal hand-held devices for talking, transmitting, reading any type of display and writing, even by using symbols or icons. Exceptions would apply for vehicle operators while lawfully parked, operators of emergency vehicles while performing official duties, vehicle operators using a GPS navigation system, and anyone reporting an emergency.
Background: Currently, full restrictions only address drivers under the age of 18, who are prohibited to text or use a cell phone while driving. Restrictions addressing adult drivers ONLY prohibit TEXTING while driving and reading of texts and e-mails. Distracted Drivers are a danger to themselves, vehicle occupants, other vehicles, and pedestrians. (Previously submitted as 15P01 on 1 Oct 2014, 17P02 on 18 Oct 2016, 18P03 on 1 Oct 2017, 19P01 on 1 Oct 2018).
Existing Conditions/Impacts: This initiative aims at prohibiting the use of ALL hand-held interactive personal devices for ALL drivers, while operating a moving vehicle. No impacts are seen in terms of costs. However, saving even one life will have a great, positive impact and will relieve the social burdens resulting from loss of life or injuries.
Preferred Position: Legislation should require that cell phones and other interactive personal equipment be hands-free. It further should prohibit the use of any personal hand-held device for the purpose of talking, transmitting, reading any material displayed and writing, even if using symbols or icons. This prohibition would not apply to: Vehicle Operators while lawfully parked; Vehicle Operators using a GPS navigation system; Operators of emergency vehicles while engaged in the performance of their official duties; Any person if reporting an emergency.
Benefits: Increased safety on the roads. Decreased number of accidents with consequent loss of lives, property, work productivity, and psychological distress.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Virginia and Fairfax County Bi-partisan Senators and Delegates.
Lead Federation Committee: Public Safety
Prepared by: Patrick Smaldore and Dean Sherick, Co-chairs, FedPublicSafetyChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org

2020 Legislative Issues

<p>Issue ID: 20P02 Restrictive Legislation on Gun Purchasing</p>
<p>This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019</p>
<p>Issue: Virginia’s approach to firearms records checks does not infringe on an individual’s ability to purchase or possess a firearm, while those individuals who are prohibited by State or Federal law are denied legal access to firearms. Virginia law does not address age requirements for the purchase of ammunition. Federal law requires an individual to be at least 21 years of age to purchase handgun ammunition, and at least 18 years old to purchase rifle or shotgun ammunition.</p>
<p>Background: Prospective purchasers of firearms must present a valid photo-ID form issued by a governmental agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia that denotes the individual’s name, sex, and date of birth. Where the primary form is a photo-ID issued by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), 30 days must have passed since the original date of issue or duplicate driver's license unless a copy of his/her DMV driver's record is presented showing that the original date of issue was more than 30 days prior to the attempted purchase. Rifles and shotguns may be purchased from licensed firearms dealers by persons who are residents of other states upon the presentation of one photo-identification form issued by a governmental agency of the purchaser's state of residence and one other form of identification determined to be acceptable by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (6VAC20-130-10).</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: Virginia’s approach to firearms records checks does not infringe on an individual’s Constitutional Rights (via 2nd Amendment) – that is, the ability to purchase or possess a firearm, while those individuals who are prohibited by State or Federal law are denied legal access to firearms. The Virginia Department of State Police developed and administers the Virginia Firearms Transaction Program© (VFTP). This program became operational on November 1, 1989, and provides for a timely, point-of-sale, approval or disapproval decision regarding the sale or transfer of all firearms (except antiques) based upon the results of a criminal history record information (CHRI) check concerning the prospective purchaser pursuant to §18.2-308.2:2 of the Code of Virginia.</p>
<p>Preferred Position: Implement existing codified Virginia State law into the private sector across the commonwealth; that is extend the requirement of a background check and recorded gun/ammunition sales to 18-year olds and older, to family-2-family sales and such sales at private and public gun shows. This provides for better assessment of whether existing permitting, licensing and background-check laws are being properly used to disarm dangerous people, including potential suicide victims.</p>
<p>Benefits: This will allow for accurate tracking of any weapons used in a crime by police agencies as well as increase public safety of school students and communities without infringing upon a person’s constitutional protections to bear arms (as written in the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution).</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, Safe Virginia Initiative, Virginia State Police, Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Public Schools, League of Women Voters, local religious organizations</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Public Safety, Legislation</p>
<p>Prepared by: Patrick Smaldore, Co-Chair, Public Safety; Tim Thompson, Co-Chair, Legislation, FedPublicSafetyChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org , FedLegislationChr2020@fairfaxfederation.org</p>