



ADVOCACY & RESILIENCE

VFC Annual Meeting
May 15, 2020



Legislative Outlook

- ⌘ Fiscal challenges, how to communicate with legislators which state program funding is most important and must not change?
- ⌘ Don't waste a good crisis. How we might reengineer state service delivery to local governments (K-12 delivery, constitutional officer overlap, e.g.)





Key Legislation Passed 2020 General Assembly

- ⌘ **Guns – Local Control** [HB421](#)
- ⌘ **Affordable Housing** – Another tool for incentivize AH through ADU & inclusionary zoning ordinances [SB834](#)
- ⌘ **Games of Skill** – Bills to ban passed the regular session; Post-CV-19 & reconvened session now allows them until July 1, 2021, with state revenue going to CV-19 response and **local revenue** (12% of \$1200/mo/machine) with no strings. [SB971](#)
- ⌘ **Monuments** – Local control [HB1537](#)





- Crisis moments present opportunity and need, especially for the Virginia legislature
 - e.g. Legislation at reconvened session regarding public bodies and public meetings
 - Constitution of Virginia is not so easily changed, *“Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn to another place, nor for more than three days.”*





Shoe Leather lobbying not an option right now. Who knows what the future will bring.



Not much, if any, face-to-face communication with legislators



State politicians, for the most part, aren't doing a lot of fundraising now

Texts, phone calls, social media & other grassroots tactics will be an even more important advocacy tool moving forward

Beware - increased prospect for communications to be taken out of context in the future --- Rule of thumb (not exactly new) anything you put in writing could appear on the internet or in the press



What We Know Now – Going Forward

- ⌘ **Perfecting our advocacy game:**
 - ⌘ Feeding information to state legislators is key to helping them communicate with their constituents. We are all in the same boat
 - ⌘ Providing boots on the ground in their district and access to information we have on state programs working in their districts
 - ⌘ Accentuating, in what will be extremely constrained budgetary years, those state programs and funding that have the most value-added and straight up impact on our members' budgets: (at-risk add-on, jail per diems, community wealth building monies, street maintenance funding).
 - ⌘ Looking for new ways to deliver essential services to our citizens. Reengineering local government delivery

