



*Virginia*

FIRST CITIES



# 2010 Fall Legislative Board Meeting

City of Hampton  
Hampton History Museum  
November 19, 2010

# Virginia First Cities

- **Charlottesville**
- **Hampton**
- **Harrisonburg**
- **Hopewell**
- **Lynchburg**
- **Martinsville**
- **Norfolk**



- **Portsmouth**
- **Petersburg**
- **Richmond**
- **Roanoke**
- **Staunton**
- **Winchester**

# Virginia First Cities Update

- VFC has participated in Government Reform and Economic Development /Jobs Commissions
- VFC has met with key leaders and made recommendations
  - Brownfields, Enterprise Zones, Regional Approaches
  - Council on Virginia's Future will make recommendations by April on regionalism
  - Impacted Commission Definition of “Economically Distressed” Communities that did not include most of our members

# Virginia First Cities Update

- **Governor's Housing Task Force** – focus on what State can do
  - State regulation reform, must consider impact on housing affordability
  - Promote workforce housing (employment/transportation/housing)
  - Creation of sustainable communities
  - Workgroup to create state housing trust fund
- **Governor's Homeless Outcomes Advisory Commission**
  - Optimal use of local, state and federal resources targeted for greater impact for permanent supportive housing
  - Target resources to protecting families
  - Use of mental health block grants for perm supportive housing, CSBs and non-profits
  - Substance abuse targeted

# Virginia First Cities Update

- Membership outreach visiting all of our cities
- Advocated for Teacher Federal Funds
- Larger Eminent Domain Working Group Dismantled – different approach

# 2010 VFC Priorities and Results

1. Education Funding for At-Risk Children
  - ✓ Result - No cuts to At-Risk Funds, despite drastic cuts to k-12
  - ✓ Result - Defeated LCI Implementation  
VFC was the ONLY organization to advocate for Hold Harmless for the Local Composite Index saving \$36 million for VFC members
  - ✓ Result - Defeated Harmful Block Grant formula for At-Risk Funding, Saving \$36 million for VFC Members  
Successful Coalitions with Alliance for Students
  - ✓ Result - Class Size Reduction for locals with high At-Risk Populations Preserved

# 2010 VFC Priorities and Results (Cont.)

## 2. Support Urban Transportation Funding

- ✓ Result - supported efforts to preserve \$60 million in transit
- ✓ Result - supported efforts to allow the CTB to shift up to 20% of mass transit capital funds to transit
- ✓ Result - supported elimination of suburban land use standards for UDA around city train stations

## 3. Preserve Law Enforcement Funding

- ✓ Result - Major VFC Advocacy Effort to preserve funding and limit cuts. Included NOVA legislators, Senate Finance legislators, Chiefs of Police, VML, VACO
- ✓ Result Halted Efforts to eliminate 599 Funds

## 4. Eminent Domain

- ✓ Result - Advocated for the Defeat of Eminent Domain Constitutional Amendment



## 2010 VFC Priorities and Results (Cont.)

5. Opposed McDonnell CSA Amendment that would have capped state appropriations, shifting costs to localities
  - Result – VFC advocacy included statistics and galvanizing Black Caucus and pivotal legislators.
  - Result – Amendment defeated.

# 2010 VFC Priorities and Results (Cont.)

## 6. Management/Administrative Improvements

\*\*New Member added to VFC – City of Harrisonburg

- ✓ Result - Excellent FY 2009 Audit – Recognized Good Business Practices
- ✓ Result - New Website