



CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG

2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

INTENT STATEMENT

Annually the City of Williamsburg adopts, via resolution, a legislative agenda. The purpose of the agenda is to provide our state and federal legislators a quick reference that outlines the City's position on issues facing the nation and state that may impact our locality.

The proposed agenda is intended to be a short listing of specific positions held by the City of Williamsburg that will be the basis of advocacy during the 2023 legislative session. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of issues that the City considers important. During the session, items will be debated that are not included in this agenda, and their exclusion does not preclude the City from taking a position.

PRIORITY ISSUE

INTERSTATE-64 WIDENING FUNDS

Close the Gap

A 29-mile gap (mile marker 203-233) remains to complete the widening of I-64 from Richmond to Norfolk. While partial funding has been identified, the City requests state and federal funds to complete the widening project and that the project proceed from east to west.



PRIORITY ISSUE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice Reform

The City requests the General Assembly to amend §15.2-107.1 which requires lengthy and expensive written notices to be published in local newspapers. The City spent on average more than \$20,000 in recent fiscal years on this type of printed ad. What was once a reasonable requirement to encourage transparency has become an obsolete unfunded mandate. At a minimum the requirement to publish lengthy, specific text should be eliminated. As an alternative, public notices should be required to be posted on official websites and social media platforms where most people now receive information.



PRIORITY ISSUE

CONNECTIVITY, ASSET BUILDING & TOURISM

Birthplace of America Trail (BoAT)

The City requests state funding for the construction of the Birthplace of America Trail (BoAT) on the Peninsula (connecting the Capital Trail from Jamestown through Williamsburg to Fort Monroe).



**PRIORITY
ISSUE**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JLAB

The City supports the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (Jefferson Lab) and asks that the Commonwealth join in the effort to locate the US Department of Energy Super High-Performance Data Facility (Super Computer) at Jefferson Lab. The Super Computer has the potential to create 2,000 jobs in Virginia and to double the Lab's economic impact to \$1 Billion per year.



**ISSUE OF
FOCUS**

TRANSPORTATION

Passenger Rail on the Virginia Peninsula

The City support efforts and projects that promote higher speed and more reliable passenger rail service to Richmond and the Northeast Corridor, including a third train to Williamsburg and Newport News.

**ISSUE OF
FOCUS**

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

William & Mary

The City endorses the legislative budget priorities of William & Mary, including (1) incremental base funding of \$1M to add 5 faculty in computational and data science, (2) \$14.2M to address critical deferred maintenance issues on William & Mary's Historic Campus in advance of 2026 events, (3) \$400,000 in incremental base support to expand the university's Jump-Start Data Science program, and (4) \$6.7M for furnishings and equipment in Integrated Science Center 4 soon to be under construction.

PARTNER AGENCY SUPPORT

The City of Williamsburg is a member of the Virginia Municipal League, Virginia First Cities, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization. Each of these partner agencies adopts legislative agendas annually. Through participation in board meetings, annual conferences and committees, the City Council and executive management of the City of Williamsburg endorse and support the legislative priorities included in these respective legislative agendas for the 2023 session. When these partner agency agendas advocate for statewide application, the City maintains local autonomy for implementation in a manner consistent with local regulation.

Items above marked with partner logos indicate issue overlap and mutual support.



Legislative Contact:

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