



Key VFC Actions - 2010 Virginia General Assembly

VFC played a pivotal role in the following. As always we find and work with allies wherever possible.

Budget Items

Local Composite Index - Supported a hold harmless- result full hold harmless 2011 and ½ hold harmless for 2012. VFC developed a fall back hold harmless scheme and distributed to House Appropriations and Senate Finance Staff and legislators. Additionally, VFC distributed critical analysis that showed the impact of LCI implementation and other cuts to education and police funding by region to city and rural legislators and Senate Finance members. VFC provided staff (Jim Regimbal) who with Bryan Pennington (Norfolk) made a critical presentation to the Hampton Roads Caucus. VFC supported a presentation to the Central Virginia Caucus with critical regional analysis and worked with Ron Jordan (Richmond) who played a major role in the advocacy. Neither VML nor VACO took a position. **NOTE: This was a savings of over \$33 million for VFC members in the 1st year and \$17 million in the 2nd year!**

Additionally, VFC advocated to avoid a partial redistribution of the LCI from Charlottesville to Albemarle, a result of a request from a member that was included in the House budget. This action was NOT included in the adopted budget.

Preservation of At-Risk Funds, without **block granting** categorical programs. **VFC** worked with the **Rural Caucus** and **galvanized the Black Caucus** to make this a strong priority essential to their support of the budget. This was a top priority for VFC as at-risk programs are critically important to our members. The block granting had an adverse financial impact on each of our member cities, while counties generally benefited fiscally from the scheme. The Alliance for Virginia's Students led by Just Children did a superb job in generating grass roots pressure and developing materials showing the impact of cuts. VFC is an active member of this group along with VEA, PTA, VML, VACO and the Commonwealth Institute. **NOTE: This was a savings of \$36 million for VFC members, and the policy change would have been permanent.**

Preserved Class Size for Schools with high At-Risk student populations

Low class size requirements for other schools were eliminated in the budget; however, localities with higher At-Risk populations were allowed to maintain smaller class size due to the advocacy of VFC and partners.

Funding for Localities with Police Departments HB 599

Although there were rumors that 599 funds would be eliminated, VFC kept the pressure on City and relevant Northern Va. legislators on Senate Finance to ensure that state funding for police departments was treated in the same manner as sheriff funding. The Senate largely prevailed in this approach. VFC also submitted a budget amendment for full funding of 599 with Sen. Janet Howell and Del. Riley Ingram.

VFC allied with the Virginia Chiefs of Police Association as well.

Note: HB 599 funds were increased by \$6.7 million for VFC localities in the adopted budget for FY 2011 compared to the introduced budget.

Defeat of Governor McDonnell's CSA Amendment to the Budget [Item 274]

which would have capped state appropriations in the Comprehensive Services Act and further reduce CSA by one percent (\$3.2 million) in FY 2011 and two percent (\$6.5 million) in FY 2012. The total biennial reductions to CSA would have been over \$90 million. A state cap would have forced localities to increase their local match disproportionately affecting VFC localities. While only 16 percent of the state's population, VFC represents 29 percent of all statewide CSA expenditures and 28 percent of the number of children served. **VFC role:** actively lobbied pivotal legislators, distributed issue summary and locality dollar impact charts to all VFC legislators and to the media, galvanized opposition by the legislative black caucus.

Enterprise Zone Budget Amendment

VFC submitted a budget amendment to return \$1million cut from the introduced budget - Del. Riley Ingram and Sen. Louise Lucas Submitted on our behalf.

Transit

VFC supported efforts to **preserve \$60M in transit capital** by eliminating harmful budget language. Had it been removed from the transit capital program the local share for every bus purchased would have doubled

Supported the passage of budget language **allowing the CTB, under certain conditions, to shift up to 20% of mass transit capital funds to maintain transit operations.** VFC worked with Northern Virginia localities on passage of a companion bill.

Eliminated budget language that would have required suburban land use standards for UDA's to be used around city train stations in order to maintain passenger service.

Passenger Rail

Supported a budget language amendment that allows a portion of the Rail Enhancement Funds to be used for passenger rail operations. This is an important breakthrough as this has been a capital only fund.

Legislation

Gun Buy Back Legislation VFC was responsible for getting key legislators to re-refer the bill to the Courts committee that defeated it and other harmful gun bills. VFC also arranged for VFC member Chiefs of Police to testify against this legislation.

Eminent Domain Constitutional Amendment VFC supported the defeat of legislation that would have been the first step to an Eminent Domain Constitutional Amendment.

Triennial Census VFC played a major role in the development of legislation that does away with the triennial census. Legislation should provide accurate numbers for funding through the Weldon Cooper Center at little to no cost of implementing the triennial census. Several members stated that the Triennial Census was too costly locally.